



US011109018B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Okouneva

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 11,109,018 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** ***Aug. 31, 2021**

(54) **TARGETLESS VEHICULAR CAMERA MISALIGNMENT CORRECTION METHOD**

(71) Applicant: **MAGNA ELECTRONICS INC.**,
Auburn Hills, MI (US)

(72) Inventor: **Galina Okouneva**, Markham (CA)

(73) Assignee: **MAGNA ELECTRONICS INC.**,
Auburn Hills, MI (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(21) Appl. No.: **16/792,586**

(22) Filed: **Feb. 17, 2020**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**
US 2020/0186790 A1 Jun. 11, 2020

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 15/984,528, filed on May 21, 2018, now Pat. No. 10,567,748, which is a (Continued)

(51) **Int. Cl.**
H04N 17/00 (2006.01)
H04N 5/247 (2006.01)
(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **H04N 17/002** (2013.01); **B60R 1/00** (2013.01); **G06K 9/00791** (2013.01);
(Continued)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC G06T 7/0018; G06T 2207/10004; G06T 2207/10016; G06T 2207/30252;
(Continued)

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,961,625 A 10/1990 Wood et al.
4,966,441 A 10/1990 Conner
(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EP 0353200 A2 1/1990
EP 0361914 A2 4/1990
(Continued)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Achler et al., "Vehicle Wheel Detector using 2D Filter Banks," IEEE Intelligent Vehicles Symposium of Jun. 2004.
(Continued)

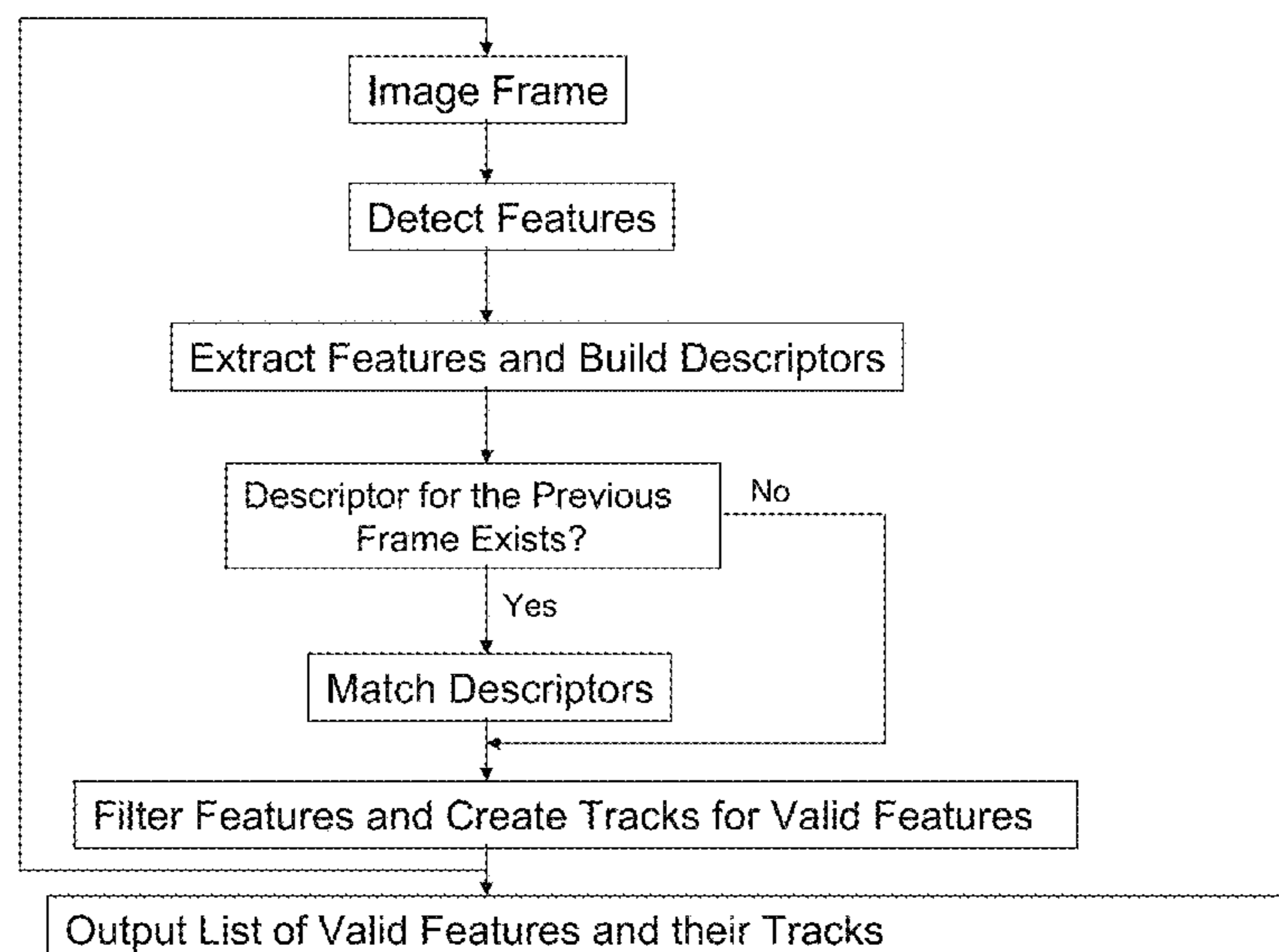
Primary Examiner — Zaihan Jiang

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Honigman LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method of correcting misalignment of a vehicular camera includes disposing a camera at a vehicle at a vehicle assembly plant and calibrating the camera at the vehicle while the vehicle is at the vehicle assembly plant. Frames of image data are captured with the camera as the vehicle is driven along an arbitrary path along a road, and the captured frames of image data are processed by a processor. As the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path, at least one feature present in the frames of captured image data is determined and tracked to determine misalignment of the camera. The determined camera misalignment is corrected (i) without use of a target in the field of view of the camera and (ii) without processing of frames of image data captured by the camera that are representative of a target in the field of view of the camera.

40 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets



Related U.S. Application Data

continuation of application No. 15/416,218, filed on Jan. 26, 2017, now Pat. No. 9,979,957, which is a continuation of application No. 14/282,028, filed on May 20, 2014, now Pat. No. 9,563,951.

(60) Provisional application No. 61/878,877, filed on Sep. 17, 2013, provisional application No. 61/825,752, filed on May 21, 2013.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

- H04N 5/232* (2006.01)
- G06T 7/00* (2017.01)
- G06T 7/70* (2017.01)
- G06T 7/33* (2017.01)
- G06T 7/579* (2017.01)
- G06T 7/80* (2017.01)
- G06K 9/78* (2006.01)
- G06K 9/62* (2006.01)
- G06K 9/00* (2006.01)
- B60R 1/00* (2006.01)
- G06T 7/73* (2017.01)
- G06T 7/246* (2017.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC *G06K 9/6201* (2013.01); *G06K 9/78* (2013.01); *G06T 7/0004* (2013.01); *G06T 7/246* (2017.01); *G06T 7/337* (2017.01); *G06T 7/579* (2017.01); *G06T 7/70* (2017.01); *G06T 7/74* (2017.01); *G06T 7/80* (2017.01); *H04N 5/23238* (2013.01); *H04N 5/247* (2013.01); *B60R 2300/105* (2013.01); *B60R 2300/30* (2013.01); *B60R 2300/402* (2013.01); *B60R 2300/607* (2013.01); *G06T 2207/10016* (2013.01); *G06T 2207/20164* (2013.01); *G06T 2207/30108* (2013.01); *G06T 2207/30252* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC *B60R 1/00*; *B60R 2300/607*; *B60R 2300/802*; *B60R 2300/30*
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,967,319 A	10/1990	Seko
4,970,653 A	11/1990	Kenue
5,003,288 A	3/1991	Wilhelm
5,059,877 A	10/1991	Teder
5,064,274 A	11/1991	Alten
5,072,154 A	12/1991	Chen
5,096,287 A	3/1992	Kakinami et al.
5,148,014 A	9/1992	Lynam et al.
5,166,681 A	11/1992	Bottesch et al.
5,177,606 A	1/1993	Koshizawa
5,182,502 A	1/1993	Slotkowski et al.
5,193,029 A	3/1993	Schofield et al.
5,204,778 A	4/1993	Bechtel
5,208,701 A	5/1993	Maeda
5,208,750 A	5/1993	Kurami et al.
5,214,408 A	5/1993	Asayama
5,243,524 A	9/1993	Ishida et al.
5,245,422 A	9/1993	Borcherts et al.
5,276,389 A	1/1994	Levers
5,289,321 A	2/1994	Secor
5,305,012 A	4/1994	Faris
5,307,136 A	4/1994	Saneyoshi
5,351,044 A	9/1994	Mathur et al.
5,355,118 A	10/1994	Fukuhara
5,386,285 A	1/1995	Asayama

5,406,395 A	4/1995	Wilson et al.
5,408,346 A	4/1995	Trissel et al.
5,414,461 A	5/1995	Kishi et al.
5,426,294 A	6/1995	Kobayashi et al.
5,430,431 A	7/1995	Nelson
5,434,407 A	7/1995	Bauer et al.
5,440,428 A	8/1995	Hegg et al.
5,444,478 A	8/1995	Lelong et al.
5,451,822 A	9/1995	Bechtel et al.
5,469,298 A	11/1995	Suman et al.
5,530,420 A	6/1996	Tsuchiya et al.
5,535,144 A	7/1996	Kise
5,535,314 A	7/1996	Alves et al.
5,537,003 A	7/1996	Bechtel et al.
5,539,397 A	7/1996	Asanuma et al.
5,550,677 A	8/1996	Schofield et al.
5,555,555 A	9/1996	Sato et al.
5,568,027 A	10/1996	Teder
5,574,443 A	11/1996	Hsieh
5,648,835 A	7/1997	Uzawa
5,661,303 A	8/1997	Teder
5,670,935 A	9/1997	Schofield et al.
5,699,044 A	12/1997	Van Lente et al.
5,724,316 A	3/1998	Brunts
5,737,226 A	4/1998	Olson et al.
5,757,949 A	5/1998	Kinoshita et al.
5,760,826 A	6/1998	Nayar
5,761,094 A	6/1998	Olson et al.
5,765,116 A	6/1998	Wilson-Jones et al.
5,781,437 A	7/1998	Wiemer et al.
5,786,772 A	7/1998	Schofield et al.
5,790,403 A	8/1998	Nakayama
5,790,973 A	8/1998	Blaker et al.
5,796,094 A	8/1998	Schofield et al.
5,837,994 A	11/1998	Stam et al.
5,845,000 A	12/1998	Breed et al.
5,848,802 A	12/1998	Breed et al.
5,850,176 A	12/1998	Kinoshita et al.
5,850,254 A	12/1998	Takano et al.
5,867,591 A	2/1999	Onda
5,877,707 A	3/1999	Kowalick
5,877,897 A	3/1999	Schofield et al.
5,878,370 A	3/1999	Olson
5,896,085 A	4/1999	Mori et al.
5,920,367 A	7/1999	Kajimoto et al.
5,923,027 A	7/1999	Stam et al.
5,929,786 A	7/1999	Schofield et al.
5,956,181 A	9/1999	Lin
6,049,171 A	4/2000	Stam et al.
6,052,124 A	4/2000	Stein et al.
6,066,933 A	5/2000	Ponziana
6,084,519 A	7/2000	Coulling et al.
6,091,833 A	7/2000	Yasui et al.
6,097,024 A	8/2000	Stam et al.
6,100,811 A	8/2000	Hsu et al.
6,175,300 B1	1/2001	Kendrick
6,198,409 B1	3/2001	Schofield et al.
6,226,061 B1	5/2001	Tagusa
6,259,423 B1	7/2001	Tokito et al.
6,266,082 B1	7/2001	Yonezawa et al.
6,266,442 B1	7/2001	Laumeyer et al.
6,285,393 B1	9/2001	Shimoura et al.
6,285,778 B1	9/2001	Nakajima et al.
6,297,781 B1	10/2001	Turnbull et al.
6,310,611 B1	10/2001	Caldwell
6,317,057 B1	11/2001	Lee
6,320,282 B1	11/2001	Caldwell
6,353,392 B1	3/2002	Schofield et al.
6,370,329 B1	4/2002	Teuchert
6,396,397 B1	5/2002	Bos et al.
6,411,204 B1	6/2002	Bloomfield et al.
6,424,273 B1	7/2002	Gutta et al.
6,498,620 B2	12/2002	Schofield et al.
6,516,664 B2	2/2003	Lynam
6,553,130 B1	4/2003	Lemelson et al.
6,570,998 B1	5/2003	Ohtsuka et al.
6,574,033 B1	6/2003	Chui et al.
6,578,017 B1	6/2003	Ebersole et al.
6,587,573 B1	7/2003	Stam et al.

(56)

References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

6,589,625 B1 7/2003 Kothari et al.
 6,593,011 B2 7/2003 Liu et al.
 6,593,698 B2 7/2003 Stam et al.
 6,594,583 B2 7/2003 Ogura et al.
 6,611,610 B1 8/2003 Stam et al.
 6,627,918 B2 9/2003 Getz et al.
 6,631,316 B2 10/2003 Stam et al.
 6,631,994 B2 10/2003 Suzuki et al.
 6,636,258 B2 10/2003 Strumolo
 6,650,455 B2 11/2003 Miles
 6,672,731 B2 1/2004 Schnell et al.
 6,674,562 B1 1/2004 Miles
 6,678,056 B2 1/2004 Downs
 6,680,792 B2 1/2004 Miles
 6,690,268 B2 2/2004 Schofield et al.
 6,700,605 B1 3/2004 Toyoda et al.
 6,703,925 B2 3/2004 Steffel
 6,704,621 B1 3/2004 Stein et al.
 6,710,908 B2 3/2004 Miles et al.
 6,711,474 B1 3/2004 Treyz et al.
 6,714,331 B2 3/2004 Lewis et al.
 6,735,506 B2 5/2004 Breed et al.
 6,741,377 B2 5/2004 Miles
 6,744,353 B2 6/2004 Sjonell
 6,762,867 B2 7/2004 Lippert et al.
 6,794,119 B2 9/2004 Miles
 6,795,221 B1 9/2004 Urey
 6,807,287 B1 10/2004 Hermans
 6,823,241 B2 11/2004 Shirato et al.
 6,824,281 B2 11/2004 Schofield et al.
 6,864,930 B2 3/2005 Matsushita et al.
 6,889,161 B2 5/2005 Winner et al.
 6,909,753 B2 6/2005 Meehan et al.
 6,946,978 B2 9/2005 Schofield
 6,968,736 B2 11/2005 Lynam
 6,975,775 B2 12/2005 Rykowski et al.
 7,004,606 B2 2/2006 Schofield
 7,038,577 B2 5/2006 Pawlicki et al.
 7,062,300 B1 6/2006 Kim
 7,065,432 B2 6/2006 Moisel et al.
 7,085,637 B2 8/2006 Breed et al.
 7,092,548 B2 8/2006 Laumeyer et al.
 7,113,867 B1 9/2006 Stein
 7,116,246 B2 10/2006 Winter et al.
 7,123,168 B2 10/2006 Schofield
 7,133,661 B2 11/2006 Hatae et al.
 7,149,613 B2 12/2006 Stam et al.
 7,151,996 B2 12/2006 Stein
 7,202,776 B2 4/2007 Breed
 7,227,459 B2 6/2007 Bos et al.
 7,227,611 B2 6/2007 Hull et al.
 7,325,934 B2 2/2008 Schofield et al.
 7,325,935 B2 2/2008 Schofield et al.
 7,338,177 B2 3/2008 Lynam
 7,375,803 B1 5/2008 Bamji
 7,380,948 B2 6/2008 Schofield et al.
 7,388,182 B2 6/2008 Schofield et al.
 7,423,821 B2 9/2008 Bechtel et al.
 7,425,076 B2 9/2008 Schofield et al.
 7,526,103 B2 4/2009 Schofield et al.
 7,541,743 B2 6/2009 Salmeen et al.
 7,565,006 B2 7/2009 Stam et al.
 7,566,851 B2 7/2009 Stein et al.
 7,605,856 B2 10/2009 Imoto
 7,619,508 B2 11/2009 Lynam et al.
 7,720,580 B2 5/2010 Higgins-Luthman
 7,786,898 B2 8/2010 Stein et al.
 7,792,329 B2 9/2010 Schofield et al.
 7,843,451 B2 11/2010 Lafon
 7,855,778 B2 12/2010 Yung et al.
 7,881,496 B2 2/2011 Camilleri et al.
 7,914,187 B2 3/2011 Higgins-Luthman et al.
 7,930,160 B1 4/2011 Hosagrahara et al.
 7,949,486 B2 5/2011 Denny et al.
 8,017,898 B2 9/2011 Lu et al.

8,064,643 B2 11/2011 Stein et al.
 8,082,101 B2 12/2011 Stein et al.
 8,164,628 B2 4/2012 Stein et al.
 8,224,031 B2 7/2012 Saito
 8,233,045 B2 7/2012 Luo et al.
 8,254,635 B2 8/2012 Stein et al.
 8,300,886 B2 10/2012 Hoffmann
 8,378,851 B2 2/2013 Stein et al.
 8,421,865 B2 4/2013 Euler et al.
 8,452,055 B2 5/2013 Stein et al.
 8,553,088 B2 10/2013 Stein et al.
 9,201,424 B1* 12/2015 Ogale G05D 1/0253
 9,563,951 B2* 2/2017 Okouneva G06T 7/579
 9,979,957 B2 5/2018 Okouneva
 10,567,748 B2 2/2020 Okouneva
 2002/0005778 A1 1/2002 Breed et al.
 2002/0011611 A1 1/2002 Huang et al.
 2002/0113873 A1 8/2002 Williams
 2003/0103142 A1 6/2003 Hitomi et al.
 2003/0137586 A1 7/2003 Lewellen
 2003/0222982 A1 12/2003 Hamdan et al.
 2004/0056778 A1* 3/2004 Hilliard G08G 1/042
 340/933
 2004/0164228 A1 8/2004 Fogg et al.
 2005/0219852 A1 10/2005 Stam et al.
 2005/0237385 A1 10/2005 Kosaka et al.
 2006/0050018 A1 3/2006 Hutzler
 2006/0091813 A1 5/2006 Stam et al.
 2006/0103727 A1 5/2006 Tseng
 2006/0250501 A1 11/2006 Wildmann et al.
 2007/0005609 A1* 1/2007 Breed B60N 2/2863
 2007/0024724 A1 2/2007 Stein et al.
 2007/0104476 A1 5/2007 Yasutomi et al.
 2007/0242339 A1 10/2007 Bradley
 2008/0043099 A1 2/2008 Stein et al.
 2008/0147321 A1 6/2008 Howard et al.
 2008/0192132 A1 8/2008 Bechtel et al.
 2008/0266396 A1 10/2008 Stein
 2009/0113509 A1 4/2009 Tseng et al.
 2009/0160987 A1 6/2009 Bechtel et al.
 2009/0190015 A1 7/2009 Bechtel et al.
 2009/0256938 A1 10/2009 Bechtel et al.
 2009/0290032 A1 11/2009 Zhang et al.
 2010/0179781 A1* 7/2010 Raphael G06T 7/80
 702/94
 2011/0026771 A1* 2/2011 Hsu G06K 9/00805
 382/104
 2011/0216201 A1 9/2011 McAndrew et al.
 2011/0254504 A1* 10/2011 Haddad B60L 53/65
 320/109
 2012/0045112 A1 2/2012 Lundblad et al.
 2012/0069185 A1 3/2012 Stein
 2012/0200707 A1 8/2012 Stein
 2012/0314071 A1 12/2012 Rosenbaum et al.
 2012/0320209 A1 12/2012 Vico et al.
 2013/0141580 A1 6/2013 Stein et al.
 2013/0147957 A1 6/2013 Stein
 2013/0169812 A1 7/2013 Lu et al.
 2013/0218398 A1* 8/2013 Gandhi G01S 13/58
 701/31.1
 2013/0286193 A1 10/2013 Pflug
 2014/0043473 A1 2/2014 Gupta et al.
 2014/0063254 A1 3/2014 Shi et al.
 2014/0098229 A1* 4/2014 Lu H04N 7/181
 348/148
 2014/0247352 A1 9/2014 Rathi et al.
 2014/0247354 A1 9/2014 Knudsen
 2014/0320658 A1 10/2014 Pliefke
 2014/0333729 A1 11/2014 Pflug
 2014/0347486 A1 11/2014 Okouneva
 2014/0350834 A1 11/2014 Turk
 2015/0049193 A1* 2/2015 Gupta G03B 43/00
 348/148

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EP 0640903 A1 3/1995
 EP 0697641 A2 2/1996

(56)

References Cited

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EP	1115250	A1	7/2001
EP	2377094	A1	10/2011
EP	2667325	A1	11/2013
GB	2233530	A	1/1991
JP	S5539843	A	3/1980
JP	S58110334	A	6/1983
JP	6272245		5/1987
JP	S62131837	A	6/1987
JP	01123587		5/1989
JP	H1168538	A	7/1989
JP	H236417		8/1990
JP	03099952		4/1991
JP	6227318	B2	8/1994
JP	07105496		4/1995
JP	2630604		7/1997
JP	200274339	A	3/2002
JP	20041658	A	1/2004
JP	6216073	B2	10/2017
WO	2012139636	A1	10/2012
WO	2012139660	A1	10/2012
WO	2012143036	A1	10/2012

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Behringer et al., "Simultaneous Estimation of Pitch Angle and Lane Width from the Video Image of a Marked Road," pp. 966-973, Sep. 12-16, 1994.

Borenstein et al., "Where am I? Sensors and Method for Mobile Robot Positioning", University of Michigan, Apr. 1996, pp. 2, 125-128.

Bow, Sing T., "Pattern Recognition and Image Preprocessing (Signal Processing and Communications)", CRC Press, Jan. 15, 2002, pp. 557-559.

Broggi et al., "Automatic Vehicle Guidance: The Experience of the ARGO Vehicle", World Scientific Publishing Co., 1999.

Broggi et al., "Multi-Resolution Vehicle Detection using Artificial Vision," IEEE Intelligent Vehicles Symposium of Jun. 2004.

Franke et al., "Autonomous driving approaches downtown", Intelligent Systems and Their Applications, IEEE 13 (6), 40-48, Nov./Dec. 1999.

Kastrinaki et al., "A survey of video processing techniques for traffic applications".

Philomin et al., "Pedestrian Tracking from a Moving Vehicle".

Sahli et al., "A Kalman Filter-Based Update Scheme for Road Following," IAPR Workshop on Machine Vision Applications, pp. 5-9, Nov. 12-14, 1996.

Sun et al., "On-road vehicle detection using optical sensors: a review", IEEE Conference on Intelligent Transportation Systems, 2004.

Van Leeuwen et al., "Motion Estimation with a Mobile Camera for Traffic Applications", IEEE, US, vol. 1, Oct. 3, 2000, pp. 58-63.

Van Leeuwen et al., "Motion Interpretation for In-Car Vision Systems", IEEE, US, vol. 1, Sep. 30, 2002, p. 135-140.

Van Leeuwen et al., "Real-Time Vehicle Tracking in Image Sequences", IEEE, US, vol. 3, May 21, 2001, pp. 2049-2054, XP010547308.

Van Leeuwen et al., "Requirements for Motion Estimation in Image Sequences for Traffic Applications", IEEE, US, vol. 1, May 24, 1999, pp. 145-150, XP010340272.

Vlacic et al. (Eds), "Intelligent Vehicle Technologies, Theory and Applications", Society of Automotive Engineers Inc., edited by SAE International, 2001.

Zheng et al., "An Adaptive System for Traffic Sign Recognition," IEEE Proceedings of the Intelligent Vehicles '94 Symposium, pp. 165-170 (Oct. 1994).

* cited by examiner

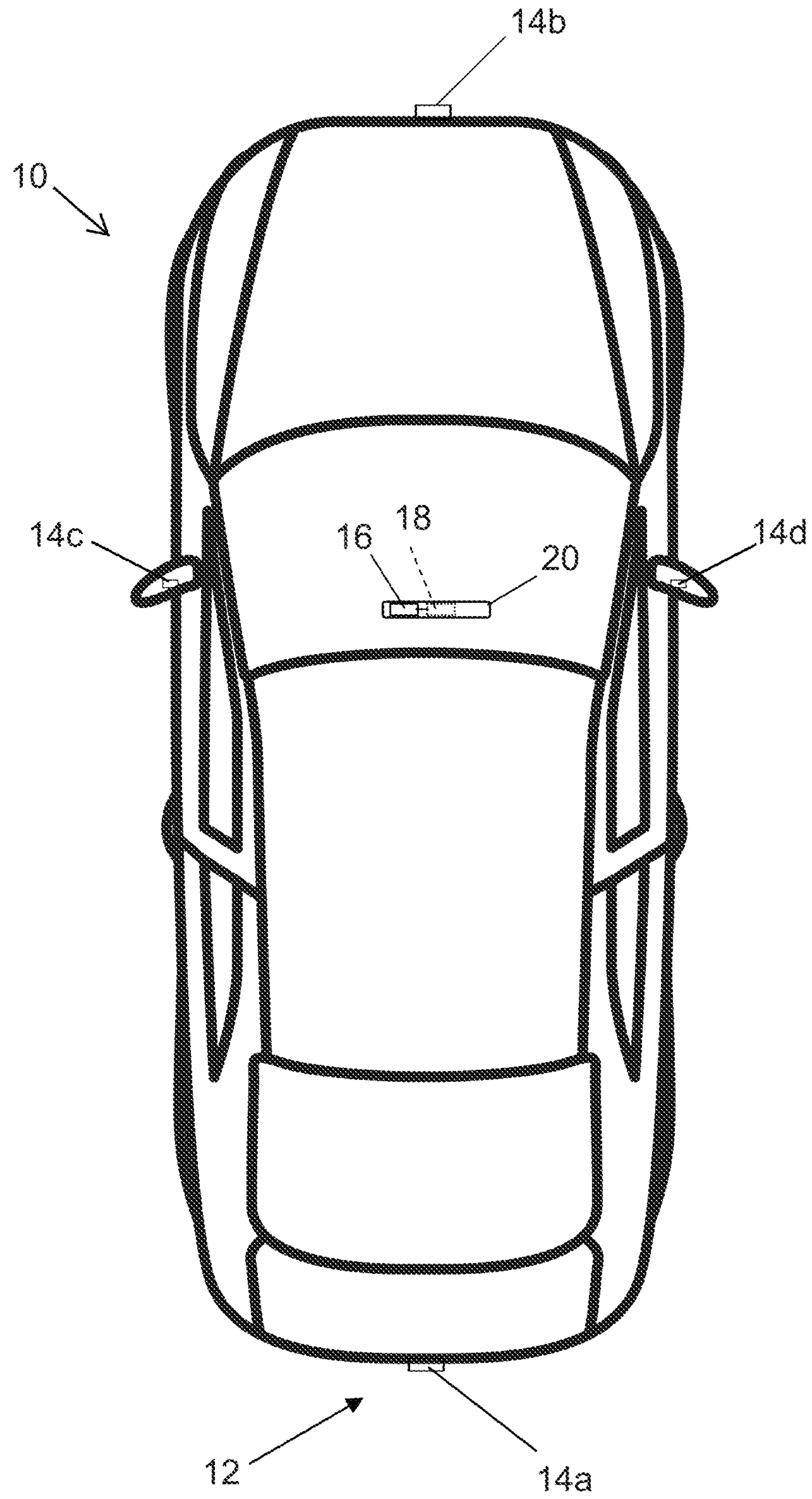


FIG. 1

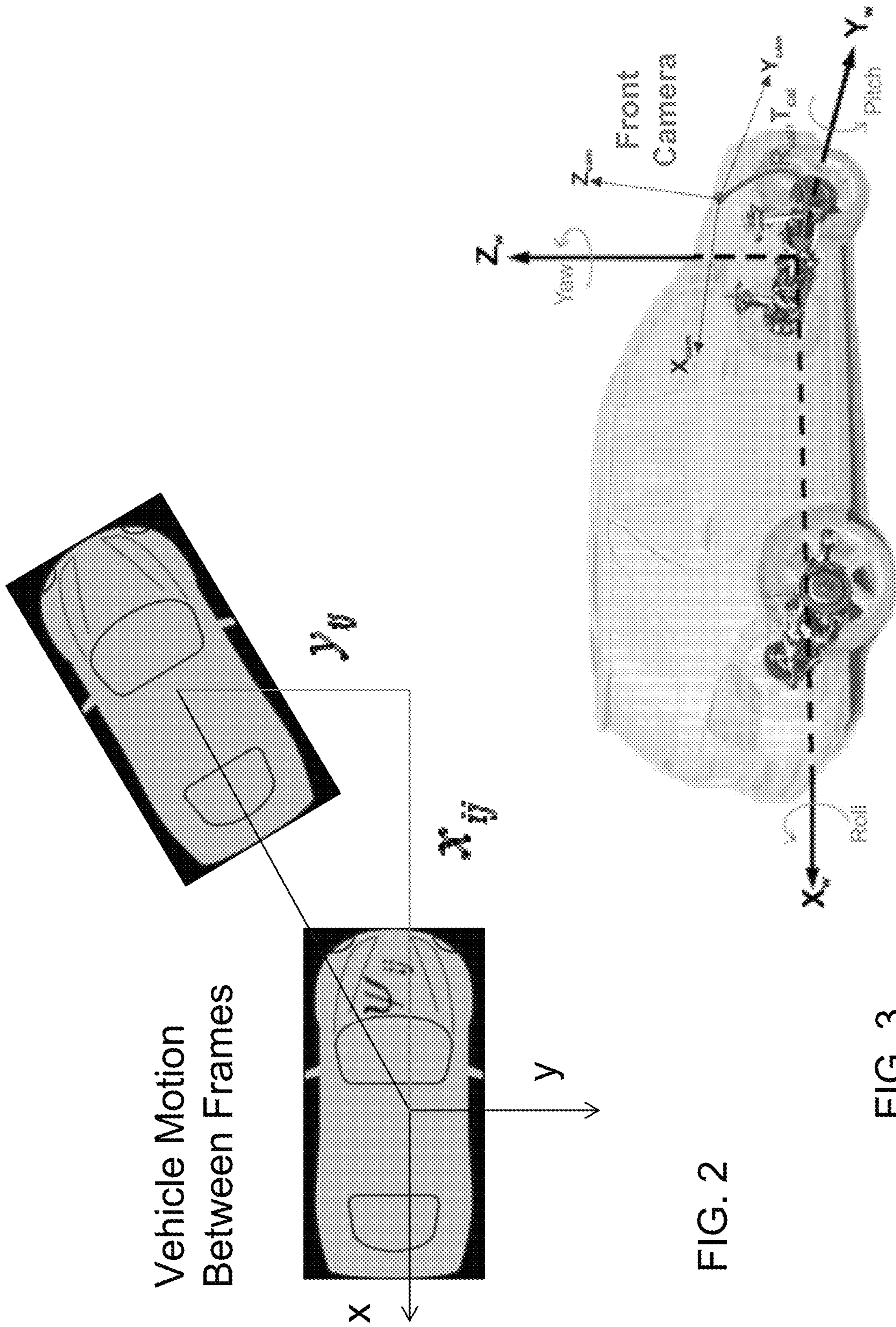


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

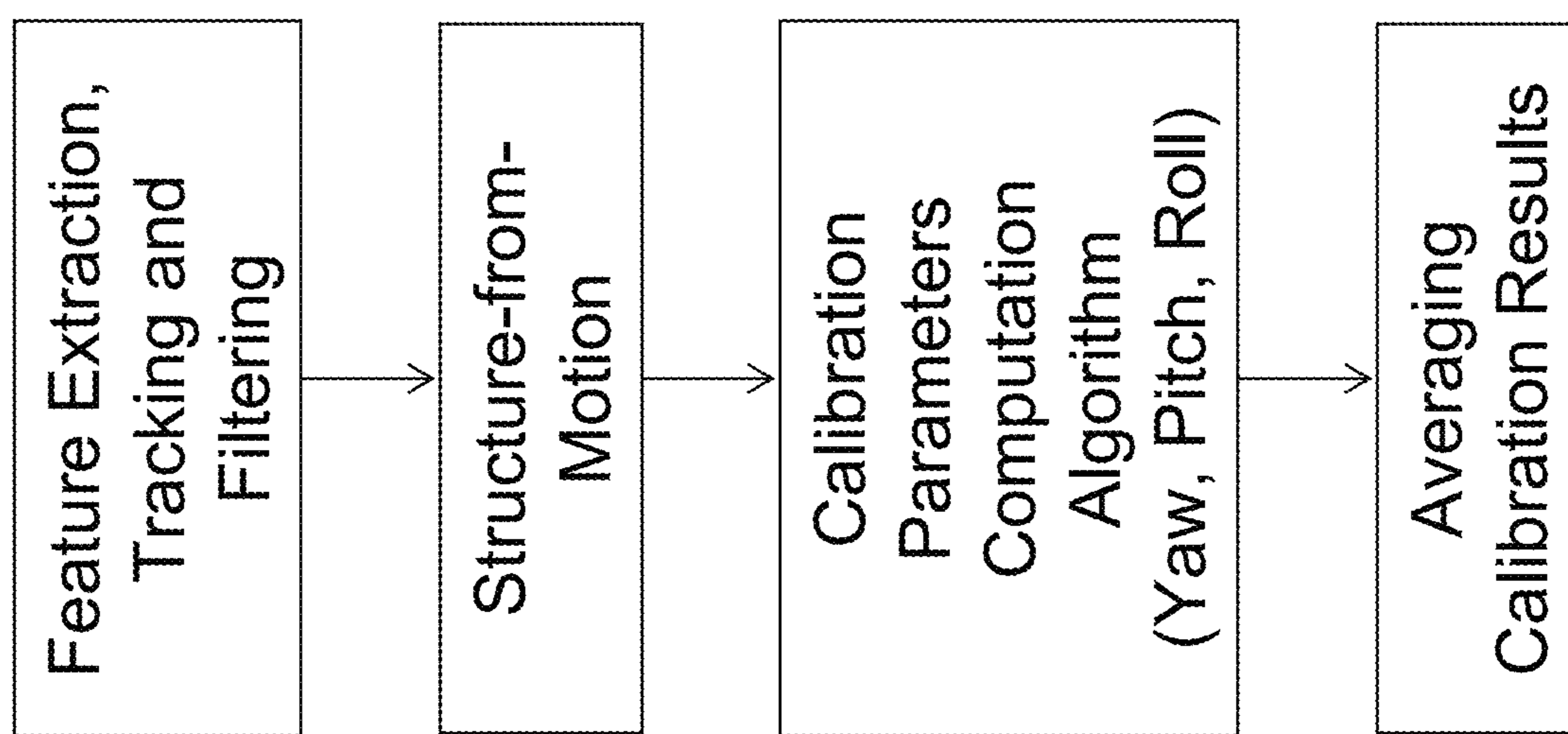


FIG. 4

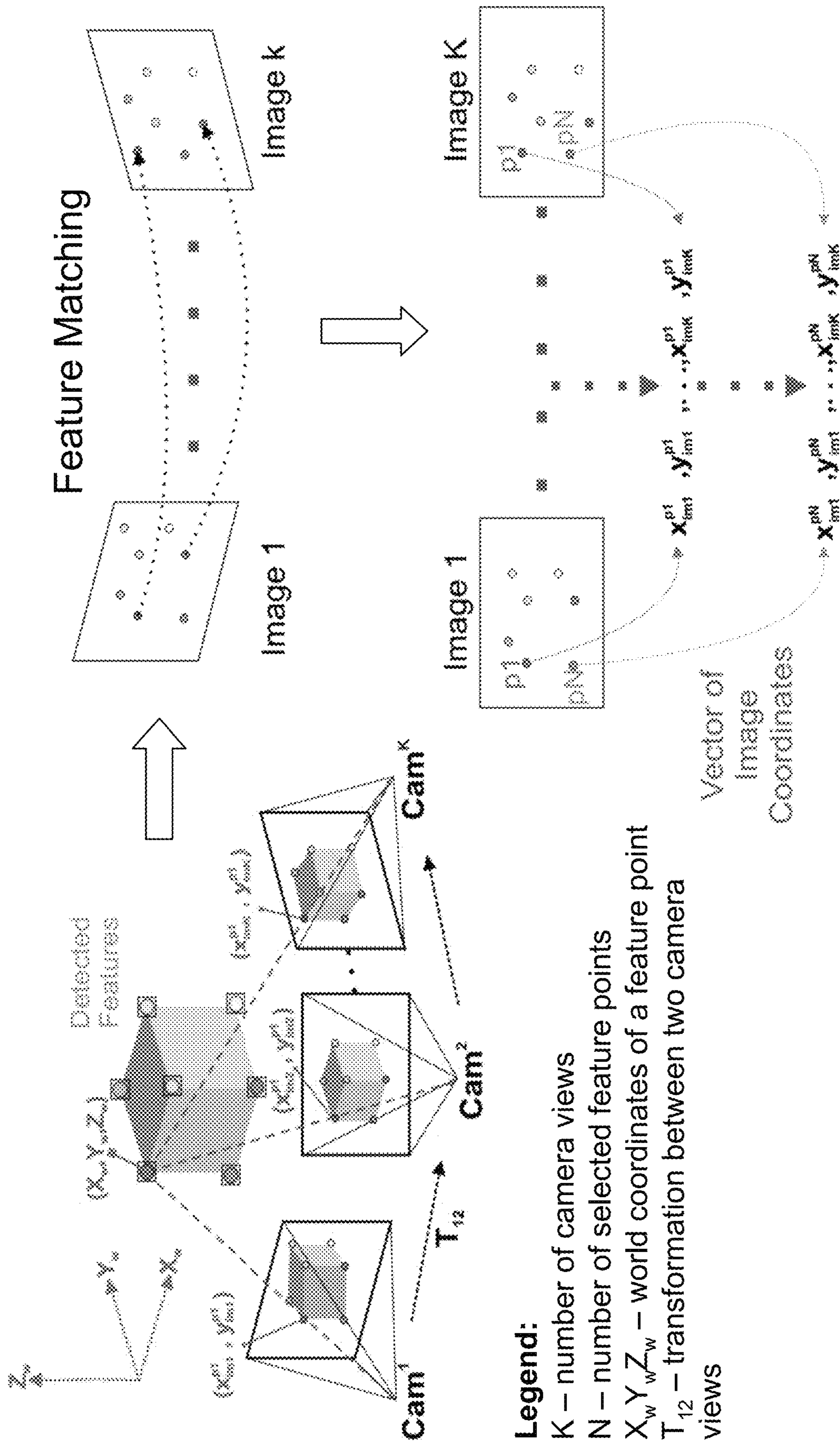
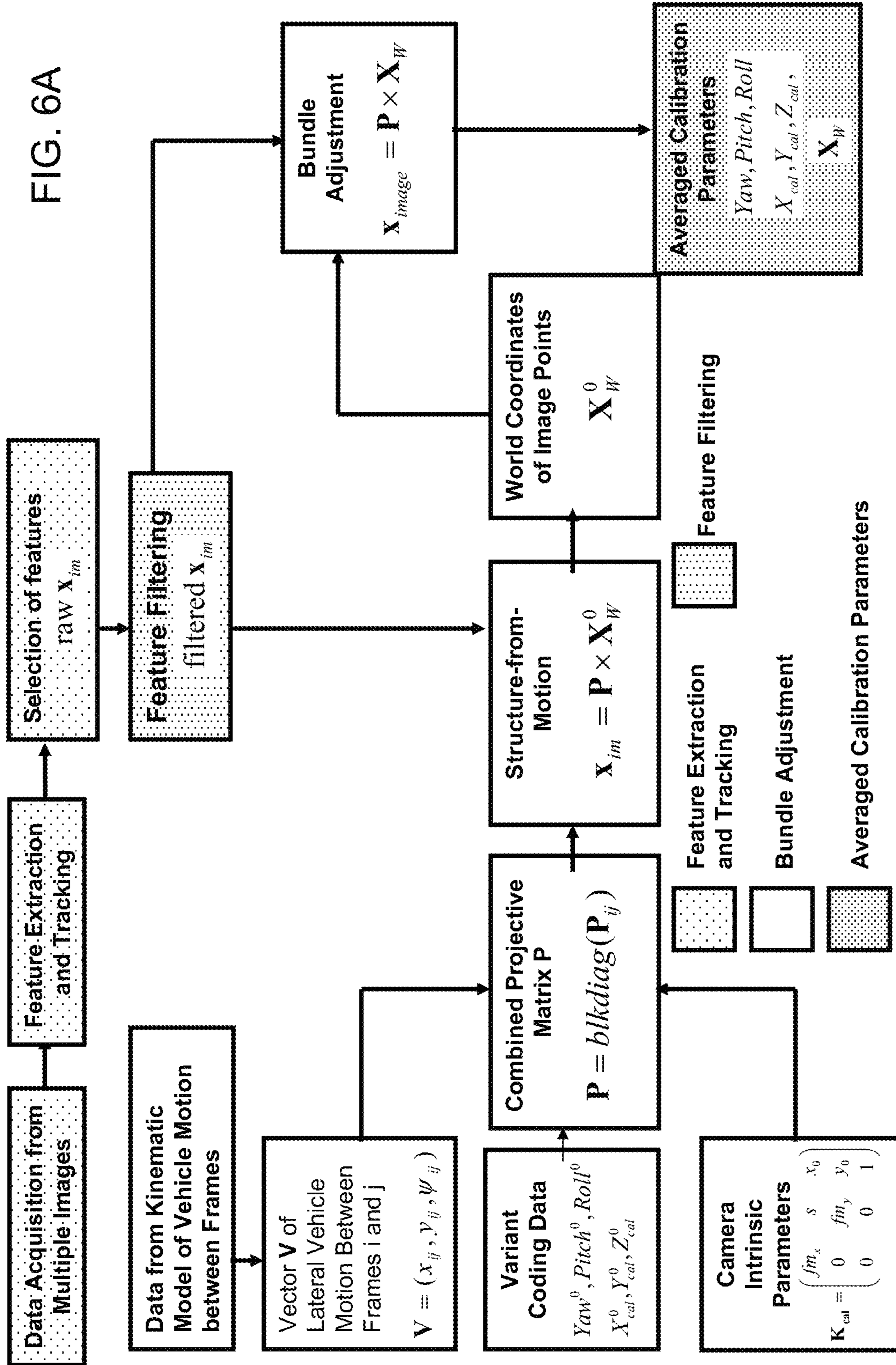


FIG. 5

FIG. 6A



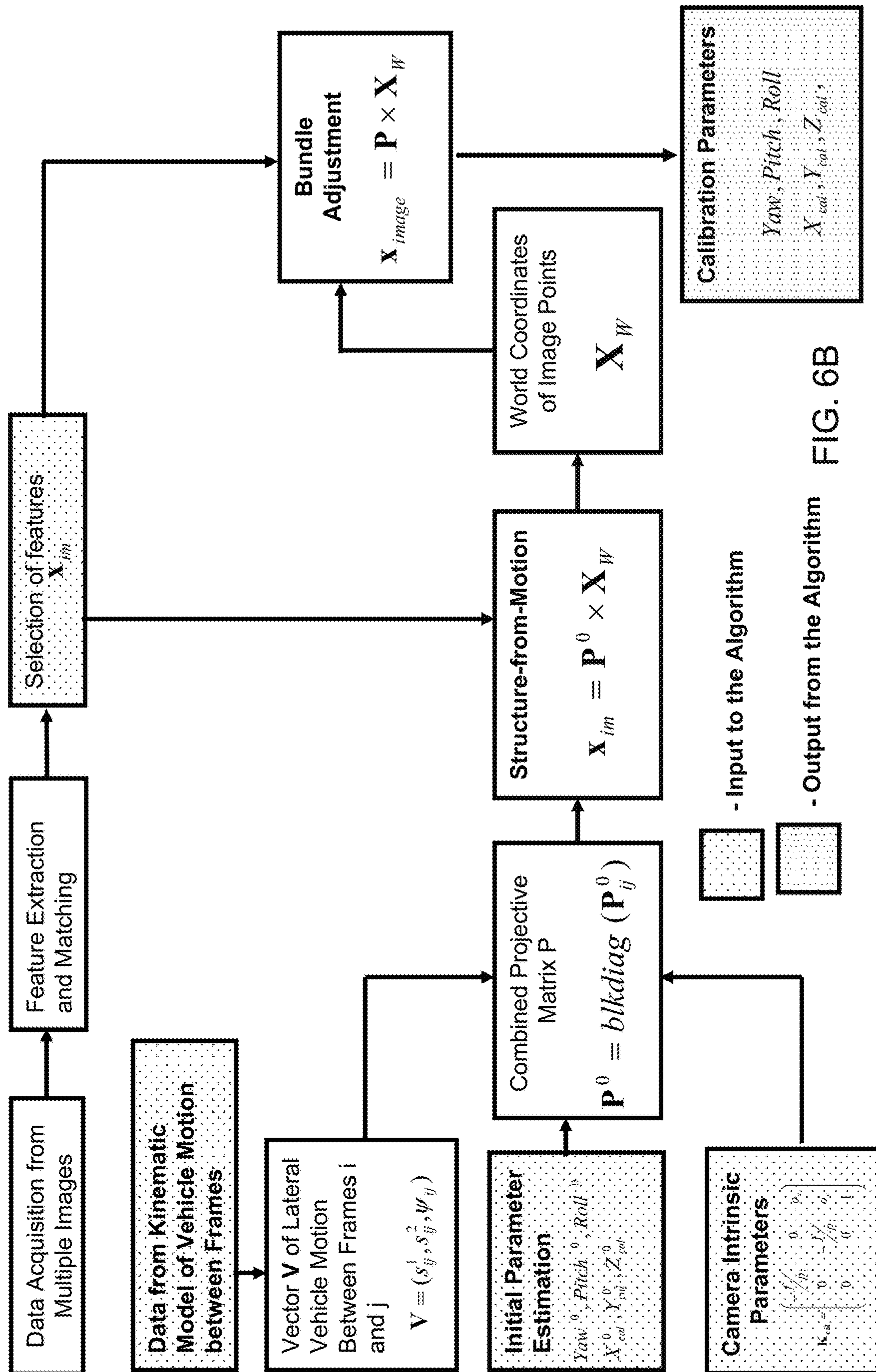


FIG. 6B

Structure-from-Motion matrix equation solves for World Coordinates \mathbf{X}_W of feature points:

$$\mathbf{X}_{im} = \mathbf{P}^0 \times \mathbf{X}_W$$

- $\mathbf{X}_W = (X_W^1, Y_W^1, Z_W^1, I, \dots, X_W^N, Y_W^N, Z_W^N, I)^T$ - vector (**unknown**) of World Coordinate s ;
- $\mathbf{X}_{im} = (x_{im1}^{p1}, y_{im1}^{p1}, I, \dots, x_{imK}^{p1}, y_{imK}^{p1}, I, \dots, x_{im1}^{pN}, y_{im1}^{pN}, I, \dots, x_{imK}^{pN}, y_{imK}^{pN}, I)^T$ - vector (**known**) of normalized image coordinates of points $p1, \dots, pN$ in images $1, \dots, K$;
- $\mathbf{P}_{3K \times 4N}^0 = \text{blkdiag}(\mathbf{P}_{ij}^0)$ - combined block - diagonal projective matrix (**known**);
- where $\mathbf{P}_{ij}^0 = \mathbf{K}_{cal} \times \mathbf{R}_{cal}^0 \times \mathbf{T}_{cal}^0 \times \mathbf{C}_{ij}$ - projective matrices represent motion between frames;
- \mathbf{K}_{cal} - intrinsic parameter matrix (**known**);
- $\mathbf{R}_{cal}^0 (Yaw^0, Pitch^0, Roll^0)$ - matrix of calibration angles (**known**);
- $\mathbf{T}_{cal}^0 (X_{cal}^0, Y_{cal}^0, Z_{cal}^0)$ - matrix of translational calibration components (**known**);
- $\mathbf{C}_{ij} (x_{ij}, y_{ij}, \psi_{ij})$ - matrix composed of motion parameters of motion between image frames i and j (**known** from Kinematic Model);

FIG. 7

Bundle Adjustment is a numerical procedure which simultaneously solves for Calibration Parameters and World Coordinates of selected features

Required Data: Estimation of World Coordinates \mathbf{X}_W of feature point and initial estimation of six calibration parameters ($Yaw^0, Pitch^0, Roll^0, X_{cal}^0, Y_{cal}^0, Z_{cal}^0$)

$$\mathbf{X}_{im} = \mathbf{P} \times \mathbf{X}_W$$

- $\mathbf{X}_W = (X_W^1, Y_W^1, Z_W^1, I, \dots, X_W^N, Y_W^N, Z_W^N, I)^T$ - vector (**known**) of World Coordinates;
- $\mathbf{X}_{im} = (x_{im1}^{p1}, y_{im1}^{p1}, I, \dots, x_{imK}^{pN}, y_{imK}^{pN}, I)^T$ - vector (**known**) of normalized image coordinates of points $p1, \dots, pN$ in images $1, \dots, K$;
- $\mathbf{P}_{3K \times 4N} = \text{blkdiag}(\mathbf{P}_{ij})$ - combined blok - diagonal projective matrix (**unknown**);
where $\mathbf{P}_{ij} = \mathbf{K}_{cal} \times \mathbf{R}_{cal} \times \mathbf{T}_{cal} \times \mathbf{C}_{ij}$ - projective matrices represent motion between frames;
- \mathbf{K}_{cal} - intrinsic parameter matrix (**known**);
- $\mathbf{R}_{cal}(Yaw, Pitch, Roll)$ - matrix of calibration angles (**unknown**);
- $\mathbf{T}_{cal}(X_{cal}, Y_{cal}, Z_{cal})$ - matrix of translational calibration components (**unknown**);
- $\mathbf{C}_{ij}(x_{ij}, y_{ij}, \psi_{ij})$ - matrix composed of parameters of camera motion between image frames i and j (**known** from Kinematic Model);

FIG. 8

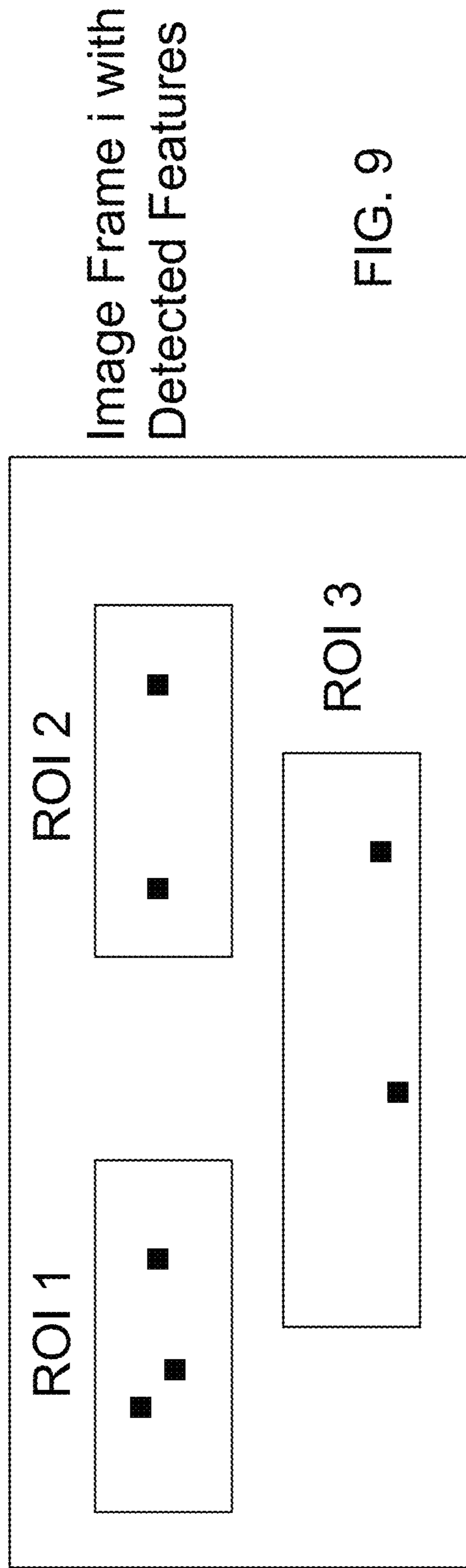


FIG. 9

Extraction and Matching of Feature Descriptors

- For each detected feature in each image in the sequence, build a descriptor, an m-dimensional vector $(a_{im_i}^1, \dots, a_{im_i}^m)$, based on the image information in the neighborhood of the feature
- Match the descriptor based on their distance d_{ij} from each other in Frames i and j

Input: Image coordinates of the detected features in each image

Output: A descriptor for each feature, a list of matched feature and a match metric

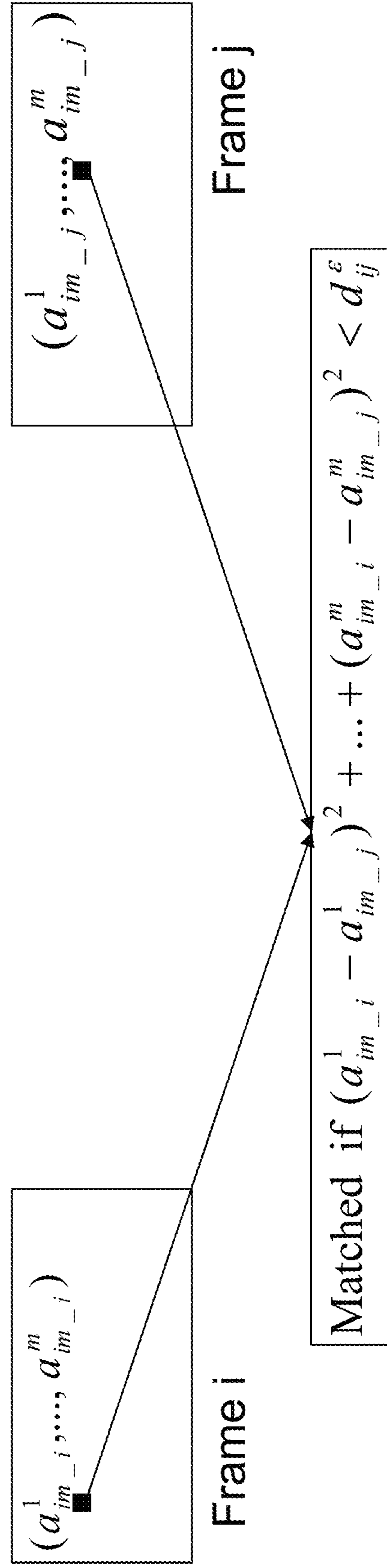


FIG. 10

Create Feature Tracks

For each feature l create a feature track

$$FT_i^{pl} = (x_{im_i}^{pl}, y_{im_i}^{pl}, x_{im_j}^{pl}, y_{im_j}^{pl}, S_{ij}^1, S_{ij}^2, \Psi_{ij})$$

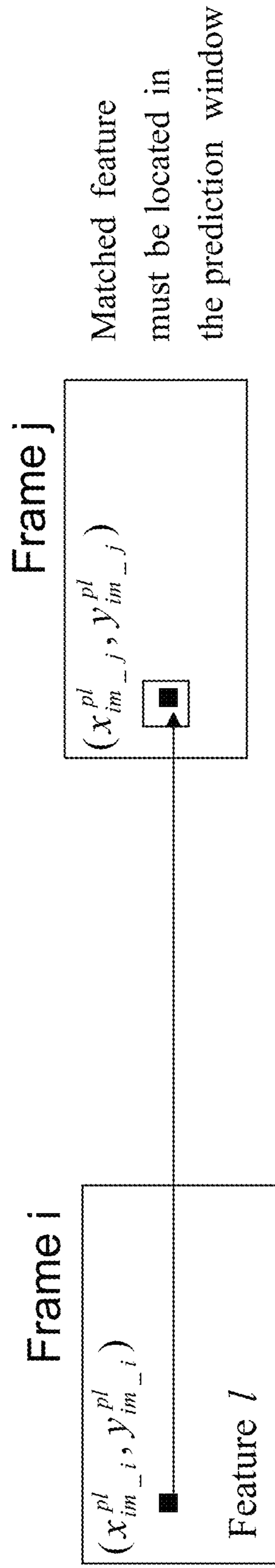
Input:

- A feature l detected in Frame i
- A valid angle of vehicle front wheel between Frames i and j is $\delta_f < 30^\circ$

Output: A collection of feature tracks

$$FT = \cup \{ FV_{t}^{ps} \}, ps \in \{ \text{all tracked features} \}, t \in \{ \text{all frames} \}$$

which combines all feature tracks for all tracked features



Feature Track FT_i^{pl} for Feature l detected in Frame i

FIG. 11

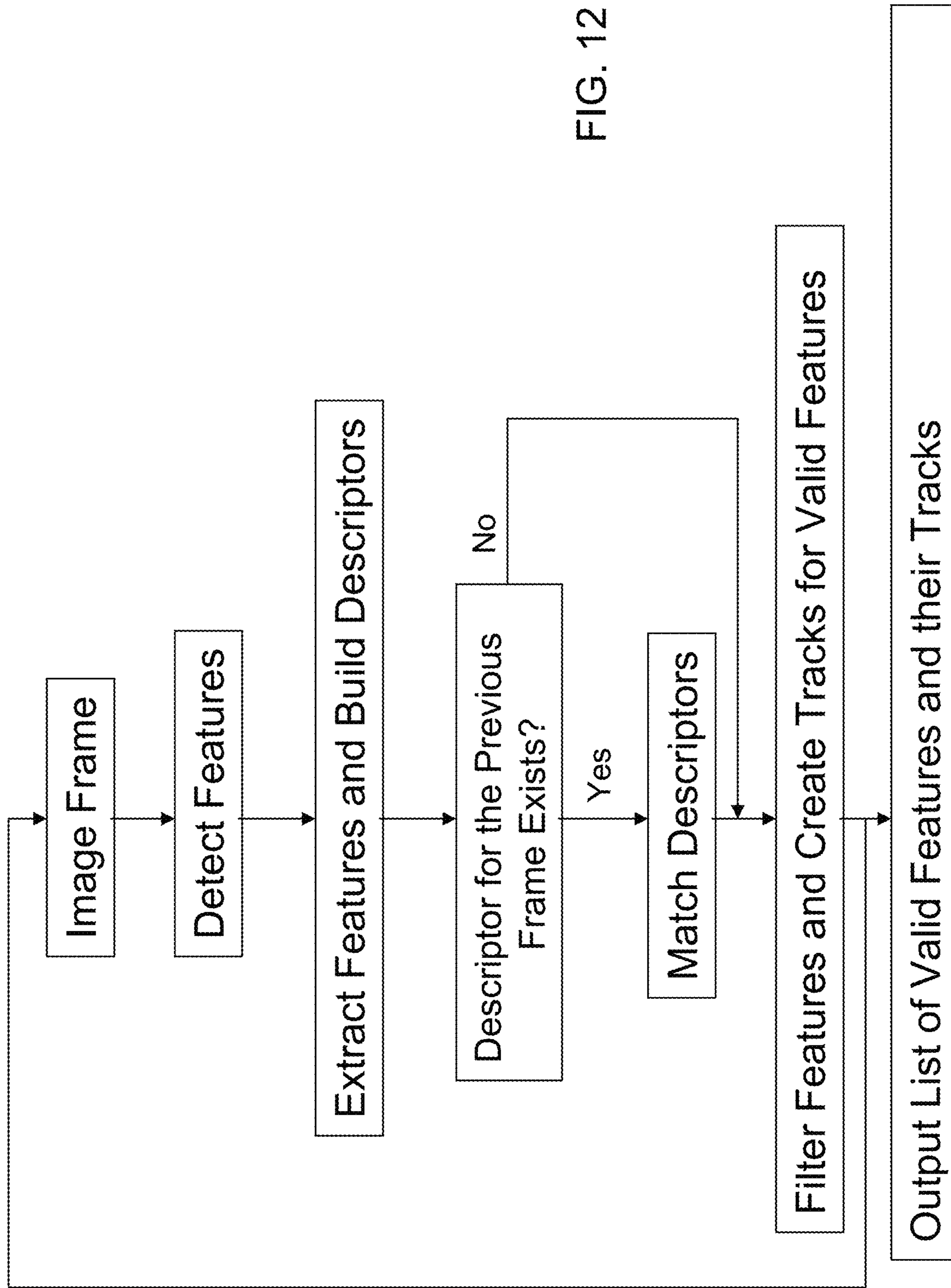


FIG. 12

Feature Filtering

- ◆ To enhance the SfM and BA accuracy by:
 - Eliminating feature pairs which do not satisfy the established rules for valid feature pairs in valid frame pairs

Valid Feature Satisfies the Rules :

- x- and y- pixel motion must be greater than 3 pix between frames
- Must have a matched feature inside the prediction window
- Must be located outside the NaN zone in the unwarped image space
- Must satisfy the inequality $\mathbf{x}_{im_i} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{x}_{im_j} < D_\varepsilon$, where D_ε is a tolerance, and \mathbf{F} is the fundamental matrix
- Match metric score must satisfy the inequality $d_{ij}^\varepsilon < d_\varepsilon$

FIG. 13

1

TARGETLESS VEHICULAR CAMERA MISALIGNMENT CORRECTION METHOD

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/984,528, filed May 21, 2018, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,567,748, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/416,218, filed Jan. 26, 2017, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,979,957, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/282,028, filed May 20, 2014, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,563,951, which claims the filing benefits of U.S. provisional application Ser. No. 61/878,877, filed Sep. 17, 2013, and Ser. No. 61/825,752, filed May 21, 2013, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to a vehicle vision system for a vehicle and, more particularly, to a vehicle vision system that utilizes one or more cameras at a vehicle.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Use of imaging sensors in vehicle imaging systems is common and known. Examples of such known systems are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,949,331; 5,670,935 and/or 5,550,677, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a collision avoidance system or vision system or imaging system for a vehicle that utilizes one or more cameras (such as one or more CMOS cameras) to capture image data representative of images exterior of the vehicle, and provides a calibration system that is operable to determine calibration parameters for the camera or cameras of the vision system without use of fiducial markers or targets in the field of view of the camera or cameras.

The cameras (such as one or more CMOS cameras) capture image data representative of images exterior of the vehicle, and provide the communication/data signals, including camera data or captured image data, that may be displayed at a display screen that is viewable by the driver of the vehicle, such as when the driver is backing up the vehicle, and that may be processed and, responsive to such image processing, the system may detect an object at or near the vehicle and in the path of travel of the vehicle, such as when the vehicle is backing up. The vision system may be operable to display a surround view or bird's eye view of the environment at or around or at least partially surrounding the subject or equipped vehicle, and the displayed image may include a displayed image representation of the subject vehicle.

These and other objects, advantages, purposes and features of the present invention will become apparent upon review of the following specification in conjunction with the drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a plan view of a vehicle with a vision system that incorporates cameras in accordance with the present invention;

2

FIG. 2 is a schematic showing the coordinate system and angles used to represent the travel of the vehicle during calibration;

FIG. 3 is a perspective view and schematic of the vehicle;

FIG. 4 is a top level flow chart of the targetless software calibration (TSC) algorithm of the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a schematic showing the data acquisition and feature extraction of the system of the present invention;

FIGS. 6A and 6B are flowcharts of the targetless calibration algorithm of the present invention;

FIG. 7 shows details of a structure from motion algorithm or process suitable for use with the system of the present invention;

FIG. 8 shows details of a bundle adjustment process of the system of the present invention;

FIG. 9 shows details of a feature detection algorithm or process of the system of the present invention;

FIG. 10 shows details of an extraction and matching of features process of the system of the present invention;

FIG. 11 shows details of a feature matching process of the system of the present invention;

FIG. 12 is a flow chart of the feature extraction and matching process or algorithm of the system of the present invention; and

FIG. 13 shows details of a feature filtering process of the system of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

A vehicle vision system and/or driver assist system and/or object detection system and/or alert system operates to capture images exterior of the vehicle and may process the captured image data to display images and to detect objects at or near the vehicle and in the predicted path of the vehicle, such as to assist a driver of the vehicle in maneuvering the vehicle in a rearward direction. The vision system includes an image processor or image processing system that is operable to receive image data from one or more cameras and provide an output to a display device for displaying images representative of the captured image data. Optionally, the vision system may provide a top down or bird's eye or surround view display and may provide a displayed image that is representative of the subject vehicle, and optionally with the displayed image being customized to at least partially correspond to the actual subject vehicle.

Referring now to the drawings and the illustrative embodiments depicted therein, a vehicle 10 includes an imaging system or vision system 12 that includes at least one exterior facing imaging sensor or camera, such as a rearward facing imaging sensor or camera 14a (and the system may optionally include multiple exterior facing imaging sensors or cameras, such as a forwardly facing camera 14b at the front (or at the windshield) of the vehicle, and a sidewardly/rearwardly facing camera 14c, 14d at respective sides of the vehicle), which captures images exterior of the vehicle, with the camera having a lens for focusing images at or onto an imaging array or imaging plane or imager of the camera (FIG. 1). The vision system 12 includes a control or electronic control unit (ECU) or processor 18 that is operable to process image data captured by the cameras and may provide displayed images at a display device 16 for viewing by the driver of the vehicle (although shown in FIG. 1 as being part of or incorporated in or at an interior rearview mirror assembly 20 of the vehicle, the control and/or the display device may be disposed elsewhere at or in the vehicle). The cameras operate to capture frames of image

data at a desired or selected frame rate, such as, for example, about 30 frames per second or more or less. The data transfer or signal communication from the camera to the ECU may comprise any suitable data or communication link, such as a vehicle network bus or the like of the equipped vehicle.

The present invention provides a targetless calibration system or targetless software calibration (TSC) for calibrating cameras of a vehicle vision system. The calibration system generates camera calibration parameters, such as translational components: X, Y, Z (mm); and rotational components: Yaw, Pitch, and Roll angles (degrees). No specific vehicle motion required, and the calibration is performed as the vehicle navigates along an arbitrary path. The bundle adjustment may be a core feature of the targetless software calibration, and iteratively refines calibration parameters starting from a known initial estimation. The system uses bundle adjustment (BA) inputs, including image coordinates of matched scene features between two frames of captured image data, vehicle motion vector ($V=[S1, S2, \psi]$) between two frames of captured image data, an initial estimation of calibration parameters, and/or three dimensional (3D) coordinates of features (such as via a structure from motion algorithm or the like). The vehicle motion vector (V) may be computed using only vehicle CAN Bus data, and may be independent of any image data captured by the camera or cameras of the vehicle.

The system of the present invention thus may provide an algorithm that performs a fast and reliable on-line targetless calibration of one or more cameras installed on a vehicle (in other words, the system estimates camera calibration parameters). The system thus eliminates the need for any camera calibration requiring special setup, such as, for example, a vehicle manufacturer or factory end-of-line process or service or the like.

The conditions for the calibration system include: R_{cal} (Yaw, Pitch, Roll) and $T_{cal}=(X_{cal}, Y_{cal}, Z_{cal})$. The vehicle is moving on the road with arbitrary patterns or texture (in other words, no lane markings or other markings or similar patterns or texturing needed) and along an arbitrary path (with no special maneuvers being needed, such as planned or specific turns or routing, such as driving in a circular loop or the like). The system may utilize a motion model for the camera calibration, such as a kinematic model of vehicle motion of the types described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/282,029, filed May 20, 2014 by James Turk for VEHICLE VISION SYSTEM USING KINEMATIC MODEL OF VEHICLE MOTION, and published Nov. 27, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0350834, and U.S. provisional application Ser. No. 61/825,753, filed May 21, 2013, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

Thus, and as can be seen with reference to FIGS. 5-8, the system receives image data from a camera or cameras of the vehicle and extracts and matches features over multiple images or frames of captured image data. The system also receives data from a kinematic model of vehicle motion (such as a kinematic model of vehicle motion of the types described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/282,029, filed May 20, 2014 by James Turk for VEHICLE VISION SYSTEM USING KINEMATIC MODEL OF VEHICLE MOTION, and published Nov. 27, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0350834, and U.S. provisional application Ser. No. 61/825,753, filed May 21, 2013, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entireties), and determines the vehicle motion between frames and, based on

initial parameter estimations and camera intrinsic parameters, the system determines the calibration parameters for the camera.

The targetless software calibration system of the present invention uses software modules such as an interface software module (which provides an image input or image data input and/or a network input or CAN input to the system) and a kinematic model input. The system uses image processing to provide feature detection, feature extraction, feature matching and feature filtering, and uses computer vision to provide a calibration parameters setup, structure-from-motion, a bundle adjustment, and an averaging of calibration results. For example, and as shown in FIG. 12, the system uses feature detection (FIG. 9), and extracts and matches feature descriptors (FIG. 10) and creates feature matches (FIG. 11), and outputs a list of valid features and their movements or movement patterns. The feature filtering (FIG. 13) enhances the structure-from-motion and bundle adjustment by eliminating feature pairs that do not satisfy the established rules for valid feature pairs in valid frame pairs.

As shown in FIG. 9, the feature detection may detect features within an image frame. The system thus may detect N features (such as three features shown in FIG. 9) in three separate rectangular constant image ROIs, with the detection occurring periodically, such as every K frames (such as every frame or every other frame or every third frame or the like). The feature detection may utilize various detection methods, such as a Harris corner detector, speeded-up robust features (SURF), minimum eigenvalue and/or the like. The input may comprise a sequence of images with the ROI locations and dimensions, which may be constant for each image in the sequence. The output may comprise a list of pixel coordinates for each detected feature in each image frame.

As shown in FIG. 10, the system may utilize extraction and matching of feature descriptors. For each detected feature in each image of the sequence of images, the system may build a descriptor, an m-dimensional vector, based on the image information in the neighborhood of the feature. The system may match the descriptor based on the distance d_{ij} from each other in frames i and j. The input may comprise image coordinates of the detected features in each image and the output may comprise a descriptor for each features, a list of matched features and a match metric.

Thus, the present invention provides a targetless camera calibration system that is operable to calibrate the cameras during any normal driving movement of the vehicle equipped with the cameras and calibrated systems. The system algorithm, when the system is calibrating more than one camera of the vehicle, does not use overlap image areas between the cameras. The system may calibrate the cameras when the vehicle and/or camera(s) undergo any movement in six degrees of freedom (such as translational movements (x, y, z) forward/backward, side to side, up/down, and such as rotational movements pitch, yaw, roll). The system achieves the calibration by matching features over multiple captured images and determining how the features position or location in the captured images may be different from where they would be with a properly calibrated camera, based at least in part on an input of a kinematic model of the actual vehicle movement.

Various vehicle camera calibration systems have been proposed, such as those described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 8,421, 865; 7,914,187 and/or 7,949,486, and/or PCT Application No. PCT/US2011/036967, filed May 18, 2011, and/or PCT Application No. PCT/CA2012/000378, filed Apr. 25, 2012,

5

and/or PCT Application No. PCT/US2012/064980, filed Nov. 14, 2012, which are all hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entireties. Such systems typically use and rely on a reference element on the vehicle itself. For outside viewing cameras (such as a side camera disposed at or in an exterior rearview mirror of the vehicle), the vehicle manufacturer may initially calibrate the camera in the vehicle assembly plant, where the system is trained or set to correctly display on the screen what is actually occurring or existing in real life on the ground at or near the vehicle. If nothing changes over time, the system will continue to work properly. But over time, things change (for example, the exterior mirror may be moved in any of six degrees of freedom, such as along the x, y and z directions and/or about three rotational axes), and the camera follows any changes in the mirror so that what is shown on the display screen may no longer be true to the actual outside scene or reality. With multiple cameras, this may become critical if one camera is out of sync with other cameras. While use of a reference point works to calibrate the cameras, the reference point may also be changed on the vehicle.

The system of the present invention calibrates the cameras of the vehicle multi-camera system without use of reference points on the vehicle. The system figures out that a camera is out of calibration and then figures out how to calibrate it, all while the vehicle is being normally driven by the driver.

While the vehicle is driven along a road, the cameras capture frames of image data, and the system identifies or tags features in the captured images (such as, for example, a tree or a mailbox or a sign or the like) and then over a set of frames the system matches the features to determine how they are moving in the captured image and relative to the vehicle movement. The system receives an input from a kinematic model that provides kinematic data that indicates exactly how the vehicle is moving in reality. The control of the system thus knows how the vehicle moved in reality (over the period of time that the frames were captured) and knows how the determined and matched features have moved as the camera has seen them (over the period of time that the frames were captured), and thus the control sees how and where the features are moving on the image plane itself. Thus, the system knows that for a given real movement of the vehicle (such as based on a kinematic model), a determined feature in the camera's field of view should move in a particular manner and should appear at a particular location at a particular time or amount of movement of the vehicle (such as in a successive captured image or frame of image data). When the system determines that a feature is not where it is expected to be, the system can determine that the camera is out of calibration or misaligned, and can adjust the camera and/or image processing and/or display characteristics accordingly.

The system may also determine if the object is also moving, in order to avoid a false determination of camera misalignment when the object is moving as well as the vehicle and not with the vehicle (and thus does not appear where it is expected to be). For example, with a multi-camera system, two cameras may capture images of the object, and the system may determine whether or not the object is moving by comparing the image data captured by the two cameras. With the system determining that the object is stationary (such as by seeing that the "movement" of the object in the captured image data, such as due to the vehicle movement, is the generally the same between the two sets of multiple frames of captured image data), the system can then determine whether one of the two cameras is misaligned, as discussed above.

6

Thus, the targetless calibration system of the present invention is operable to calibrate a camera or cameras of a vehicle without use of reference points on or off the vehicle. The output of the calibration process is an exact or substantially exact location and orientation of the camera with respect to vehicle coordinate system (whereas known systems may calculate a transform function and use a corresponding look-up table to generate a transfer map between the raw image data and display screen). The system of the present invention has no constraints on the driving maneuvers of the vehicle (in other words, the driver is not required to drive in a straight line for a period of time during calibration), and the system is operable to determine the calibration of the cameras during any driving maneuvers of the vehicle.

Also, if the vehicle is driven in straight line only, then only four degrees of freedom of the camera can be calibrated, namely the three rotational axes (pitch, yaw and roll) and the camera height. Such straight line driving constraints are unnatural constraints on driving. However, with the present invention, the vehicle may be driven in a normal manner, with turns involved. When the vehicle is driven naturally, with turns involved, then all six degrees of freedom of the camera can be checked and calibrated (so the location and orientation of the camera can be determined). The calibration time is shortened by the system of the present invention because no time is wasted when the vehicle turns naturally as the calibration process is not suspended for the duration of the turn.

The camera or sensor may comprise any suitable camera or sensor. Optionally, the camera may comprise a "smart camera" that includes the imaging sensor array and associated circuitry and image processing circuitry and electrical connectors and the like as part of a camera module, such as by utilizing aspects of the vision systems described in International Publication Nos. WO 2013/081984 and/or WO 2013/081985, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

The system includes an image processor operable to process image data captured by the camera or cameras, such as for detecting objects or other vehicles or pedestrians or the like in the field of view of one or more of the cameras. For example, the image processor may comprise an EyeQ2 or EyeQ3 image processing chip available from Mobileye Vision Technologies Ltd. of Jerusalem, Israel, and may include object detection software (such as the types described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 7,855,755; 7,720,580 and/or 7,038,577, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entireties), and may analyze image data to detect vehicles and/or other objects. Responsive to such image processing, and when an object or other vehicle is detected, the system may generate an alert to the driver of the vehicle and/or may generate an overlay at the displayed image to highlight or enhance display of the detected object or vehicle, in order to enhance the driver's awareness of the detected object or vehicle or hazardous condition during a driving maneuver of the equipped vehicle.

The vehicle may include any type of sensor or sensors, such as imaging sensors or radar sensors or lidar sensors or ladar sensors or ultrasonic sensors or the like. The imaging sensor or camera may capture image data for image processing and may comprise any suitable camera or sensing device, such as, for example, a two dimensional array of a plurality of photosensor elements arranged in at least 640 columns and 480 rows (at least a 640×480 imaging array, such as a megapixel imaging array or the like), with a respective lens focusing images onto respective portions of

the array. The photosensor array may comprise a plurality of photosensor elements arranged in a photosensor array having rows and columns. Preferably, the imaging array has at least 300,000 photosensor elements or pixels, more preferably at least 500,000 photosensor elements or pixels and more preferably at least 1 million photosensor elements or pixels. The imaging array may capture color image data, such as via spectral filtering at the array, such as via an RGB (red, green and blue) filter or via a red/red complement filter or such as via an RCC (red, clear, clear) filter or the like. The logic and control circuit of the imaging sensor may function in any known manner, and the image processing and algorithmic processing may comprise any suitable means for processing the images and/or image data.

For example, the vision system and/or processing and/or camera and/or circuitry may utilize aspects described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 7,005,974; 5,760,962; 5,877,897; 5,796,094; 5,949,331; 6,222,447; 6,302,545; 6,396,397; 6,498,620; 6,523,964; 6,611,202; 6,201,642; 6,690,268; 6,717,610; 6,757,109; 6,802,617; 6,806,452; 6,822,563; 6,891,563; 6,946,978; 7,859,565; 5,550,677; 5,670,935; 6,636,258; 7,145,519; 7,161,616; 7,230,640; 7,248,283; 7,295,229; 7,301,466; 7,592,928; 7,881,496; 7,720,580; 7,038,577; 6,882,287; 5,929,786 and/or 5,786,772, and/or International Publication Nos. WO 2011/028686; WO 2010/099416; WO 2012/061567; WO 2012/068331; WO 2012/075250; WO 2012/103193; WO 2012/0116043; WO 2012/0145313; WO 2012/0145501; WO 2012/145818; WO 2012/145822; WO 2012/158167; WO 2012/075250; WO 2012/0116043; WO 2012/0145501; WO 2012/154919; WO 2013/019707; WO 2013/016409; WO 2013/019795; WO 2013/067083; WO 2013/070539; WO 2013/043661; WO 2013/048994; WO 2013/063014, WO 2013/081984; WO 2013/081985; WO 2013/074604; WO 2013/086249; WO 2013/103548; WO 2013/109869; WO 2013/123161; WO 2013/126715; WO 2013/043661 and/or WO 2013/158592, and/or U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/248,602, filed Apr. 9, 2014, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,327,693; Ser. No. 14/242,038, filed Apr. 1, 2014, and published on Aug. 14, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0226012; Ser. No. 14/229,061, filed Mar. 28, 2014, and published Oct. 2, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0293042; Ser. No. 14/343,937, filed Mar. 10, 2014, and published on Aug. 21, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0232872; Ser. No. 14/343,936, filed Mar. 10, 2014, and published Aug. 7, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0218535; Ser. No. 14/195,135, filed Mar. 3, 2014, and published Sep. 4, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. 2014-0247354; Ser. No. 14/195,136, filed Mar. 3, 2014, and published Sep. 4, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0247355; Ser. No. 14/191,512, filed Feb. 27, 2014, and published Sep. 4, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0247352; Ser. No. 14/183,613, filed Feb. 19, 2014, and published Aug. 21, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. 2014-0232869; Ser. No. 14/169,329, filed Jan. 31, 2014, and published Aug. 7, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. 2014-0218529; Ser. No. 14/169,328, filed Jan. 31, 2014, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,092,986; Ser. No. 14/163,325, filed Jan. 24, 2014, and published Jul. 31, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0211009; Ser. No. 14/159,772, filed Jan. 21, 2014, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,068,390; Ser. No. 14/107,624, filed Dec. 16, 2013, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,140,789; Ser. No. 14/102,981, filed Dec. 11, 2013, and published Jun. 12, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0160276; Ser. No. 14/102,980, filed Dec. 11, 2013, and published Jun. 19, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0168437; Ser. No. 14/098,817, filed Dec. 6, 2013, and published Jun. 19, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0168415; Ser. No. 14/097,581,

filed Dec. 5, 2013, and published Jun. 12, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0160291; Ser. No. 14/093,981, filed Dec. 2, 2013, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,917,169; Ser. No. 14/093,980, filed Dec. 2, 2013, and published Jun. 5, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0152825; Ser. No. 14/082,573, filed Nov. 18, 2013, and published May 22, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0139676; Ser. No. 14/082,574, filed Nov. 18, 2013, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,307,640; Ser. No. 14/082,575, filed Nov. 18, 2013, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,090,234; Ser. No. 14/082,577, filed Nov. 18, 2013, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,818,042; Ser. No. 14/071,086, filed Nov. 4, 2013, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,886,401; Ser. No. 14/076,524, filed Nov. 11, 2013, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,077,962; Ser. No. 14/052,945, filed Oct. 14, 2013, and published Apr. 17, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0104426; Ser. No. 14/046,174, filed Oct. 4, 2013, and published Apr. 10, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0098229; Ser. No. 14/016,790, filed Oct. 3, 2013, and published Mar. 6, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0067206; Ser. No. 14/036,723, filed Sep. 25, 2013, and published Mar. 27, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. 2014-0085472; Ser. No. 14/016,790, filed Sep. 3, 2013, and published Mar. 6, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0067206; Ser. No. 14/001,272, filed Aug. 23, 2013, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,233,641; Ser. No. 13/970,868, filed Aug. 20, 2013, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,365,162; Ser. No. 13/964,134, filed Aug. 12, 2013, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,340,227; Ser. No. 13/942,758, filed Jul. 16, 2013, and published Jan. 23, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0025240; Ser. No. 13/942,753, filed Jul. 16, 2013, and published Jan. 30, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0028852; Ser. No. 13/927,680, filed Jun. 26, 2013, and published Jan. 2, 2014 as U.S. Publication No. US-2014-0005907; Ser. No. 13/916,051, filed Jun. 12, 2013, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,077,098; Ser. No. 13/894,870, filed May 15, 2013, and published Nov. 28, 2013 as U.S. Publication No. US-2013-0314503; Ser. No. 13/887,724, filed May 6, 2013, and published Nov. 14, 2013 as U.S. Publication No. US-2013-0298866; Ser. No. 13/852,190, filed Mar. 28, 2013, and published Aug. 29, 2013 as U.S. Publication No. US-2013-0222593; Ser. No. 13/851,378, filed Mar. 27, 2013, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,319,637; Ser. No. 13/848,796, filed Mar. 22, 2012, and published Oct. 24, 2013 as U.S. Publication No. US-2013-0278769; Ser. No. 13/847,815, filed Mar. 20, 2013, and published Oct. 31, 2013 as U.S. Publication No. US-2013-0286193; Ser. No. 13/800,697, filed Mar. 13, 2013, and published Oct. 3, 2013 as U.S. Publication No. US-2013-0258077; Ser. No. 13/785,099, filed Mar. 5, 2013, and published Sep. 19, 2013 as U.S. Publication No. US-2013-0242099; Ser. No. 13/779,881, filed Feb. 28, 2013, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,694,224; Ser. No. 13/774,317, filed Feb. 22, 2013, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,269,263; Ser. No. 13/774,315, filed Feb. 22, 2013, and published Aug. 22, 2013 as U.S. Publication No. US-2013-0215271; Ser. No. 13/681,963, filed Nov. 20, 2012, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,264,673; Ser. No. 13/660,306, filed Oct. 25, 2012, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,146,898; Ser. No. 13/653,577, filed Oct. 17, 2012, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,174,574; and/or Ser. No. 13/534,657, filed Jun. 27, 2012, and published Jan. 3, 2013 as U.S. Publication No. US-2013-0002873, and/or U.S. provisional applications, Ser. No. 61/981,938, filed Apr. 21, 2014; Ser. No. 61/981,937, filed Apr. 21, 2014; Ser. No. 61/977,941, filed Apr. 10, 2014; Ser. No. 61/977,940, filed Apr. 10, 2014; Ser. No. 61/977,929, filed Apr. 10, 2014; Ser. No. 61/977,928, filed Apr. 10, 2014; Ser. No. 61/973,922, filed Apr. 2, 2014; Ser. No. 61/972,708, filed Mar. 31, 2014; Ser. No. 61/972,707, filed Mar. 31, 2014; Ser. No. 61/969,474, filed Mar. 24, 2014; Ser. No. 61/955,831, filed Mar. 20, 2014; Ser. No. 61/953,970, filed Mar. 17, 2014; Ser.

No. 61/952,335, filed Mar. 13, 2014; Ser. No. 61/952,334, filed Mar. 13, 2014; Ser. No. 61/950,261, filed Mar. 10, 2014; Ser. No. 61/950,261, filed Mar. 10, 2014; Ser. No. 61/947,638, filed Mar. 4, 2014; Ser. No. 61/947,053, filed Mar. 3, 2014; Ser. No. 61/941,568, filed Feb. 19, 2014; Ser. No. 61/935,485, filed Feb. 4, 2014; Ser. No. 61/935,057, filed Feb. 3, 2014; Ser. No. 61/935,056, filed Feb. 3, 2014; Ser. No. 61/935,055, filed Feb. 3, 2014; Ser. No. 61/931,811, filed Jan. 27, 2014; Ser. No. 61/919,129, filed Dec. 20, 2013; Ser. No. 61/919,130, filed Dec. 20, 2013; Ser. No. 61/919,131, filed Dec. 20, 2013; Ser. No. 61/919,147, filed Dec. 20, 2013; Ser. No. 61/919,138, filed Dec. 20, 2013; Ser. No. 61/919,133, filed Dec. 20, 2013; Ser. No. 61/918,290, filed Dec. 19, 2013; Ser. No. 61/915,218, filed Dec. 12, 2013; Ser. No. 61/912,146, filed Dec. 5, 2013; Ser. No. 61/911,666, filed Dec. 4, 2013; Ser. No. 61/911,665, filed Dec. 4, 2013; Ser. No. 61/905,461, filed Nov. 18, 2013; Ser. No. 61/905,462, filed Nov. 18, 2013; Ser. No. 61/901,127, filed Nov. 7, 2013; Ser. No. 61/895,610, filed Oct. 25, 2013; Ser. No. 61/895,609, filed Oct. 25, 2013; Ser. No. 61/879,837, filed Sep. 19, 2013; Ser. No. 61/879,835, filed Sep. 19, 2013; Ser. No. 61/875,351, filed Sep. 9, 2013; Ser. No. 61/869,195, filed Aug. 23, 2013; Ser. No. 61/864,835, filed Aug. 12, 2013; Ser. No. 61/864,836, filed Aug. 12, 2013; Ser. No. 61/864,837, filed Aug. 12, 2013; Ser. No. 61/864,838, filed Aug. 12, 2013; Ser. No. 61/856,843, filed Jul. 22, 2013; Ser. No. 61/845,061, filed Jul. 11, 2013; Ser. No. 61/844,630, filed Jul. 10, 2013; Ser. No. 61/844,173, filed Jul. 9, 2013; Ser. No. 61/844,171, filed Jul. 9, 2013; Ser. No. 61/842,644, filed Jul. 3, 2013; Ser. No. 61/840,542, filed Jun. 28, 2013; Ser. No. 61/838,619, filed Jun. 24, 2013; Ser. No. 61/838,621, filed Jun. 24, 2013; Ser. No. 61/837,955, filed Jun. 21, 2013; Ser. No. 61/836,900, filed Jun. 19, 2013; Ser. No. 61/836,380, filed Jun. 18, 2013; Ser. No. 61/833,080, filed Jun. 10, 2013; Ser. No. 61/830,375, filed Jun. 3, 2013; Ser. No. 61/830,377, filed Jun. 3, 2013; Ser. No. 61/823,648, filed May 15, 2013; Ser. No. 61/823,644, filed May 15, 2013; Ser. No. 61/821,922, filed May 10, 2013; Ser. No. 61/819,835, filed May 6, 2013; Ser. No. 61/819,033, filed May 3, 2013; Ser. No. 61/816,956, filed Apr. 29, 2013; Ser. No. 61/815,044, filed Apr. 23, 2013; and/or Ser. No. 61/813,361, filed Apr. 18, 2013, which are all hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. The system may communicate with other communication systems via any suitable means, such as by utilizing aspects of the systems described in International Publication Nos. WO/2010/144900; WO 2013/043661 and/or WO 2013/081985, and/or U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/202,005, filed Aug. 17, 2011, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,126,525, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

The imaging device and control and image processor and any associated illumination source, if applicable, may comprise any suitable components, and may utilize aspects of the cameras and vision systems described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,550,677; 5,877,897; 6,498,620; 5,670,935; 5,796,094; 6,396,397; 6,806,452; 6,690,268; 7,005,974; 7,937,667; 7,123,168; 7,004,606; 6,946,978; 7,038,577; 6,353,392; 6,320,176; 6,313,454 and/or 6,824,281, and/or International Publication Nos. WO 2010/099416; WO 2011/028686 and/or WO 2013/016409, and/or U.S. Pat. Publication No. US 2010-0020170, and/or U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/534,657, filed Jun. 27, 2012, and published Jan. 3, 2013 as U.S. Publication No. US-2013-0002873, which are all hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. The camera or cameras may comprise any suitable cameras or imaging sensors or camera modules, and may utilize aspects of the cameras or sensors described in U.S. Publi-

cation No. US-2009-0244361 and/or U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/260,400, filed Sep. 26, 2011, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,542,451, and/or 7,965,336 and/or 7,480,149, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

5 The imaging array sensor may comprise any suitable sensor, and may utilize various imaging sensors or imaging array sensors or cameras or the like, such as a CMOS imaging array sensor, a CCD sensor or other sensors or the like, such as the types described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,550,677; 5,670,935; 5,760,962; 5,715,093; 5,877,897; 6,922,292; 6,757,109; 6,717,610; 6,590,719; 6,201,642; 6,498,620; 5,796,094; 6,097,023; 6,320,176; 6,559,435; 6,831,261; 6,806,452; 6,396,397; 6,822,563; 6,946,978; 7,339,149; 7,038,577; 7,004,606; 7,720,580 and/or 7,965,336, and/or International Publication Nos. WO/2009/036176 and/or WO/2009/046268, which are all hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

The camera module and circuit chip or board and imaging sensor may be implemented and operated in connection with various vehicular vision-based systems, and/or may be operable utilizing the principles of such other vehicular systems, such as a vehicle headlamp control system, such as the type disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,796,094; 6,097,023; 6,320,176; 6,559,435; 6,831,261; 7,004,606; 7,339,149 and/or 7,526,103, which are all hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety, a rain sensor, such as the types disclosed in commonly assigned U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,353,392; 6,313,454; 6,320,176 and/or 7,480,149, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety, a vehicle vision system, such as a forwardly, sidewardly or rearwardly directed vehicle vision system utilizing principles disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,550,677; 5,670,935; 5,760,962; 5,877,897; 5,949,331; 6,222,447; 6,302,545; 6,396,397; 6,498,620; 6,523,964; 6,611,202; 6,201,642; 6,690,268; 6,717,610; 6,757,109; 6,802,617; 6,806,452; 6,822,563; 6,891,563; 6,946,978 and/or 7,859,565, which are all hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety, a trailer hitching aid or tow check system, such as the type disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 7,005,974, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, a reverse or sideward imaging system, such as for a lane change assistance system or lane departure warning system or for a blind spot or object detection system, such as imaging or detection systems of the types disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 7,881,496; 7,720,580; 7,038,577; 5,929,786 and/or 5,786,772, and/or U.S. provisional applications, Ser. No. 60/628,709, filed Nov. 17, 2004; Ser. No. 60/614,644, filed Sep. 30, 2004; Ser. No. 60/618,686, filed Oct. 14, 2004; Ser. No. 60/638,687, filed Dec. 23, 2004, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety, a video device for internal cabin surveillance and/or video telephone function, such as disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,760,962; 5,877,897; 6,690,268 and/or 7,370,983, and/or U.S. Publication No. US-2006-0050018, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety, a traffic sign recognition system, a system for determining a distance to a leading or trailing vehicle or object, such as a system utilizing the principles disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 6,396,397 and/or 7,123,168, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety, and/or the like.

Optionally, the circuit board or chip may include circuitry for the imaging array sensor and or other electronic accessories or features, such as by utilizing compass-on-a-chip or EC driver-on-a-chip technology and aspects such as described in U.S. Pat. No. 7,255,451 and/or 7,480,149; and/or U.S. Publication No. US-2006-0061008 and/or U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/578,732, filed Oct. 14, 2009,

11

now U.S. Pat. No. 9,487,144, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Optionally, the vision system may include a display for displaying images captured by one or more of the imaging sensors for viewing by the driver of the vehicle while the driver is normally operating the vehicle. Optionally, for example, the vision system may include a video display device disposed at or in the interior rearview mirror assembly of the vehicle, such as by utilizing aspects of the video mirror display systems described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,690,268 and/or U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/333,337, filed Dec. 21, 2011, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,264,672, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. The video mirror display may comprise any suitable devices and systems and optionally may utilize aspects of the compass display systems described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 7,370,983; 7,329,013; 7,308,341; 7,289,037; 7,249,860; 7,004,593; 4,546,551; 5,699,044; 4,953,305; 5,576,687; 5,632,092; 5,677,851; 5,708,410; 5,737,226; 5,802,727; 5,878,370; 6,087,953; 6,173,508; 6,222,460; 6,513,252 and/or 6,642,851, and/or European patent application, published Oct. 11, 2000 under Publication No. EP 0 1043566, and/or U.S. Publication No. US-2006-0061008, which are all hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. Optionally, the video mirror display screen or device may be operable to display images captured by a rearward viewing camera of the vehicle during a reversing maneuver of the vehicle (such as responsive to the vehicle gear actuator being placed in a reverse gear position or the like) to assist the driver in backing up the vehicle, and optionally may be operable to display the compass heading or directional heading character or icon when the vehicle is not undertaking a reversing maneuver, such as when the vehicle is being driven in a forward direction along a road (such as by utilizing aspects of the display system described in International Publication No. WO 2012/051500, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety).

Optionally, the vision system (utilizing the forward facing camera and a rearward facing camera and other cameras disposed at the vehicle with exterior fields of view) may be part of or may provide a display of a top-down view or birds-eye view system of the vehicle or a surround view at the vehicle, such as by utilizing aspects of the vision systems described in International Publication Nos. WO 2010/099416; WO 2011/028686; WO 2012/075250; WO 2013/019795; WO 2012/075250; WO 2012/145822; WO 2013/081985; WO 2013/086249 and/or WO 2013/109869, and/or U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/333,337, filed Dec. 21, 2011, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,264,672, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Optionally, a video mirror display may be disposed rearward of and behind the reflective element assembly and may comprise a display such as the types disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,530,240; 6,329,925; 7,855,755; 7,626,749; 7,581,859; 7,446,650; 7,370,983; 7,338,177; 7,274,501; 7,255,451; 7,195,381; 7,184,190; 5,668,663; 5,724,187 and/or 6,690,268, and/or in U.S. Publication Nos. US-2006-0061008 and/or US-2006-0050018, which are all hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. The display is viewable through the reflective element when the display is activated to display information. The display element may be any type of display element, such as a vacuum fluorescent (VF) display element, a light emitting diode (LED) display element, such as an organic light emitting diode (OLED) or an inorganic light emitting diode, an electroluminescent (EL) display element, a liquid crystal display (LCD) element, a video screen display element or

12

backlit thin film transistor (TFT) display element or the like, and may be operable to display various information (as discrete characters, icons or the like, or in a multi-pixel manner) to the driver of the vehicle, such as passenger side inflatable restraint (PSIR) information, tire pressure status, and/or the like. The mirror assembly and/or display may utilize aspects described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 7,184,190; 7,255,451; 7,446,924 and/or 7,338,177, which are all hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. The thicknesses and materials of the coatings on the substrates of the reflective element may be selected to provide a desired color or tint to the mirror reflective element, such as a blue colored reflector, such as is known in the art and such as described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,910,854; 6,420,036 and/or 7,274,501, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Optionally, the display or displays and any associated user inputs may be associated with various accessories or systems, such as, for example, a tire pressure monitoring system or a passenger air bag status or a garage door opening system or a telematics system or any other accessory or system of the mirror assembly or of the vehicle or of an accessory module or console of the vehicle, such as an accessory module or console of the types described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 7,289,037; 6,877,888; 6,824,281; 6,690,268; 6,672,744; 6,386,742 and/or 6,124,886, and/or U.S. Publication No. US-2006-0050018, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Changes and modifications in the specifically described embodiments can be carried out without departing from the principles of the invention, which is intended to be limited only by the scope of the appended claims, as interpreted according to the principles of patent law including the doctrine of equivalents.

The invention claimed is:

1. A method of correcting misalignment of a vehicular camera mounted at a vehicle, said method comprising:
 - at a vehicle assembly plant, disposing a camera at a vehicle so as to have a field of view exterior of the vehicle, wherein the camera comprises a two-dimensional photosensor array having a plurality of photosensing elements;
 - providing a processor at the vehicle;
 - calibrating the camera at the vehicle while the vehicle is at the vehicle assembly plant, wherein calibrating the camera comprises calibrating a yaw angle of the camera, a pitch angle of the camera and a roll angle of the camera;
 - capturing frames of image data with the camera as the vehicle is driven along an arbitrary path along a road being traveled by the vehicle;
 - processing, via the processor, frames of image data captured by the camera as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path;
 - receiving, at the processor, vehicle data representative of vehicle kinematic motion as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path;
 - responsive to processing by the processor of frames of image data captured by the camera as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path, determining at least one feature present in the frames of image data captured by the camera and tracking the determined at least one feature across the frames of image data captured by the camera;
 - responsive to tracking the determined at least one feature across the frames of image data captured by the camera, and responsive at least in part to the received vehicle

13

data representative of the vehicle kinematic motion as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path, determining misalignment of the camera;

wherein the determined misalignment comprises misalignment of at least one selected from the group consisting of (i) the yaw angle of the camera, (ii) the pitch angle of the camera and (iii) the roll angle of the camera;

responsive to determination of misalignment of the camera, correcting the determined misalignment of the camera; and

wherein correcting the determined misalignment of the camera is achieved (i) without use of a target in the field of view of the camera as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path and (ii) without processing of frames of image data captured by the camera that are representative of a target in the field of view of the camera as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein correcting the determined misalignment of the camera starts from an initial estimation of camera calibration of the camera.

3. The method of claim 2, comprising generating camera calibration parameters at least in part by refining calibration parameters starting from the initial estimation of camera calibration of the camera.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein correcting the determined misalignment of the camera starts from at least one intrinsic parameter of the camera.

5. The method of claim 1, comprising extracting and matching features determined via processing frames of image data captured by the camera as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein calibrating the camera is achieved without use of reference points on the vehicle.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein calibrating the camera comprises solving for calibration parameters and actual coordinates of an object present in the field of view of the camera.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein calibrating the camera at the vehicle while the vehicle is at the vehicle assembly plant comprises calibrating translational X, Y, Z components.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the camera is one of a plurality of cameras disposed at the vehicle, each camera of the plurality of cameras having a respective field of view exterior of the vehicle, and wherein image data captured by at least some cameras of the plurality of cameras is for use by a surround view system of the vehicle.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the plurality of cameras comprises (i) a rear camera disposed at a rear portion of the vehicle and having a rearward field of view, (ii) a driver-side camera disposed at a driver-side exterior rearview mirror assembly of the vehicle and at least having a generally sideward and rearward field of view and (iii) a passenger-side camera disposed at a passenger-side exterior rearview mirror assembly of the vehicle and at least having a generally sideward and rearward field of view.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein correcting the determined misalignment of the camera comprises correcting the determined misalignment of each camera of the plurality of cameras (i) without use of a target in the respective fields of view of the cameras as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path and (ii) without processing of frames of image data captured by the cameras that are representative of a target in the respective fields of views of the cameras as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path.

14

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the camera comprises a two-dimensional CMOS photosensor array.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein processing by the processor of frames of image data captured by the camera comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of (i) feature detection, (ii) feature extraction, (iii) feature matching and (iv) feature filtering.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein processing by the processor of frames of image data captured by the camera eliminates feature pairs that do not satisfy established rules for valid feature pairs in valid frame pairs.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein correcting the determined misalignment of the camera utilizes, at least in part, structure-from-motion during processing of frames of image data captured by the camera as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein correcting the determined misalignment of the camera utilizes, at least in part, tracking of feature descriptors during processing of frames of image data captured by the camera as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the received vehicle data comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of (i) data related to steering of the vehicle and (ii) data related to speed of the vehicle.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the received vehicle data is carried by a communication bus system of the vehicle.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the determined at least one feature comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of (i) a sign at the road being traveled by the vehicle, (ii) a mailbox at the road being traveled by the vehicle and (iii) a tree at the road being traveled by the vehicle.

20. A method of correcting misalignment of a vehicular camera mounted at a vehicle, said method comprising:

at a vehicle assembly plant, disposing a plurality of cameras at a vehicle so as to have respective fields of view exterior of the vehicle, wherein each camera of the plurality of cameras comprises a two-dimensional photosensor array having a plurality of photosensing elements;

providing a processor at the vehicle;

calibrating each camera of the plurality of cameras at the vehicle while the vehicle is at the vehicle assembly plant, wherein calibrating each camera of the plurality of cameras comprises calibrating a yaw angle of each camera, a pitch angle of each camera and a roll angle of each camera;

capturing frames of image data with each camera of the plurality of cameras as the vehicle is driven along an arbitrary path along a road being traveled by the vehicle;

processing, via the processor, frames of image data captured by each camera of the plurality of cameras as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path;

receiving, at the processor, vehicle data representative of vehicle kinematic motion as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path;

wherein the received vehicle data comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of (i) data related to steering of the vehicle and (ii) data related to speed of the vehicle;

wherein the received vehicle data is carried by a communication bus system of the vehicle;

responsive to processing by the processor of frames of image data captured by each camera of the plurality of

15

cameras as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path, determining at least one respective feature present in the respective frames of image data captured by each respective camera and tracking the determined at least one respective feature across the respective frames of image data captured by each respective camera;

responsive to the tracking of the determined at least one respective feature across the respective frames of image data captured by each respective camera, and responsive at least in part to the received vehicle data representative of the vehicle kinematic motion as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path, determining misalignment of a respective camera of the plurality of cameras;

wherein the determined misalignment comprises misalignment of at least one selected from the group consisting of (i) the yaw angle of the respective camera, (ii) the pitch angle of the respective camera and (iii) the roll angle of the respective camera;

responsive to the determination of misalignment of the respective camera of the plurality of cameras, correcting the determined misalignment of the respective camera; and

wherein correcting the determined misalignment of the respective camera is achieved (i) without use of a target in the field of view of the respective camera as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path and (ii) without processing of frames of image data captured by the respective camera that are representative of a target in the field of view of the respective camera as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path.

21. The method of claim **20**, wherein correcting the determined misalignment of the respective camera starts from an initial estimation of camera calibration of the respective camera.

22. The method of claim **21**, comprising generating camera calibration parameters at least in part by refining calibration parameters starting from the initial estimation of camera calibration of the respective cameras.

23. The method of claim **20**, wherein correcting the determined misalignment of the respective camera starts from at least one intrinsic parameter of the respective camera.

24. The method of claim **20**, comprising extracting and matching features determined via processing frames of image data captured by the respective cameras as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path.

25. The method of claim **20**, wherein the plurality of cameras comprises (i) a rear camera disposed at a rear portion of the vehicle and having a rearward field of view, (ii) a driver-side camera disposed at a driver-side exterior rearview mirror assembly of the vehicle and at least having a generally sideward and rearward field of view and (iii) a passenger-side camera disposed at a passenger-side exterior rearview mirror assembly of the vehicle and at least having a generally sideward and rearward field of view.

26. The method of claim **20**, wherein each camera of the plurality of cameras comprises a two-dimensional CMOS photosensor array.

27. The method of claim **20**, wherein processing by the processor of frames of image data captured by each camera of the plurality of cameras comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of (i) feature detection, (ii) feature extraction, (iii) feature matching and (iv) feature filtering.

28. The method of claim **20**, wherein correcting the determined misalignment of the respective camera utilizes, at least in part, structure-from-motion during processing of

16

frames of image data captured by the respective camera as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path.

29. The method of claim **20**, wherein correcting the determined misalignment of the respective camera utilizes, at least in part, tracking of feature descriptors during processing of frames of image data captured by the respective camera as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path.

30. The method of claim **20**, wherein the determined at least one respective feature comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of (i) a sign at the road being traveled by the vehicle, (ii) a mailbox at the road being traveled by the vehicle and (iii) a tree at the road being traveled by the vehicle.

31. A method of correcting misalignment of a vehicular camera mounted at a vehicle, said method comprising:

at a vehicle assembly plant, disposing a plurality of cameras at a vehicle so as to have respective fields of view exterior of the vehicle, wherein each camera of the plurality of cameras comprises a two-dimensional CMOS photosensor array having a plurality of photosensing elements;

wherein the plurality of cameras comprises (i) a rear camera disposed at a rear portion of the vehicle and having a rearward field of view, (ii) a driver-side camera disposed at a driver-side exterior rearview mirror assembly of the vehicle and at least having a generally sideward and rearward field of view and (iii) a passenger-side camera disposed at a passenger-side exterior rearview mirror assembly of the vehicle and at least having a generally sideward and rearward field of view;

providing a processor at the vehicle;

calibrating each camera of the plurality of cameras at the vehicle while the vehicle is at the vehicle assembly plant, wherein calibrating each camera of the plurality of cameras comprises calibrating a yaw angle of each camera, a pitch angle of each camera and a roll angle of each camera;

capturing frames of image data with each camera of the plurality of cameras as the vehicle is driven along an arbitrary path along a road being traveled by the vehicle;

processing, via the processor, frames of image data captured by each camera of the plurality of cameras as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path;

receiving, at the processor, vehicle data representative of vehicle kinematic motion as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path;

responsive to processing by the processor of frames of image data captured by each camera of the plurality of cameras as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path, determining at least one respective feature present in the respective frames of image data captured by each respective camera and tracking the determined at least one respective feature across the respective frames of image data captured by each respective camera;

responsive to the tracking of the determined at least one respective feature across the respective frames of image data captured by each respective camera, and responsive at least in part to the received vehicle data representative of the vehicle kinematic motion as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path, determining misalignment of a respective camera of the plurality of cameras;

wherein the determined misalignment comprises misalignment of at least one selected from the group consisting of (i) the yaw angle of the respective camera,

17

- (ii) the pitch angle of the respective camera and (iii) the roll angle of the respective camera;
- responsive to the determination of misalignment of the respective camera of the plurality of cameras, correcting the determined misalignment of the respective camera; and
- wherein correcting the determined misalignment of the respective camera is achieved (i) without use of a target in the field of view of the respective camera as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path and (ii) without processing of frames of image data captured by the respective camera that are representative of a target in the field of view of the respective camera as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path.
32. The method of claim 31, wherein correcting the determined misalignment of the respective camera starts from an initial estimation of camera calibration of the respective camera.
33. The method of claim 32, comprising generating camera calibration parameters at least in part by refining calibration parameters starting from the initial estimation of camera calibration of the respective cameras.
34. The method of claim 31, wherein correcting the determined misalignment of the respective camera starts from at least one intrinsic parameter of the respective camera.
35. The method of claim 31, comprising extracting and matching features determined via processing frames of

18

- image data captured by the respective cameras as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path.
36. The method of claim 31, wherein processing by the processor of frames of image data captured by each camera of the plurality of cameras comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of (i) feature detection, (ii) feature extraction, (iii) feature matching and (iv) feature filtering.
37. The method of claim 31, wherein correcting the determined misalignment of the respective camera utilizes, at least in part, structure-from-motion during processing of frames of image data captured by the respective camera as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path.
38. The method of claim 31, wherein correcting the determined misalignment of the respective camera utilizes, at least in part, tracking of feature descriptors during processing of frames of image data captured by the respective camera as the vehicle is driven along the arbitrary path.
39. The method of claim 31, wherein the determined at least one feature comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of (i) a sign at the road being traveled by the vehicle, (ii) a mailbox at the road being traveled by the vehicle and (iii) a tree at the road being traveled by the vehicle.
40. The method of claim 31, wherein the received vehicle data comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of (i) data related to steering of the vehicle and (ii) data related to speed of the vehicle.

* * * * *